Graduation rates at all-time high

Will Taylor
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly leads the California State University (CSU) system with 74 percent of students graduating within six years. Provost Robert Koob predicted these rates will continue to rise despite the poor economic environment in California.

Additionally, the freshman retention rate (which measures the amount of Cal Poly students who return for their sophomore year and, Koob said, is strongly influential in graduation rates) from 2008-2009 was at a record high. Of the 3,011 freshmen who enrolled at Cal Poly in 2003, 2,288 graduated within six years, according to a press release from the provost's office. The standard to Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, which operates under the National Center for Educational Statistics.

Of the 3,575 students who came to Cal Poly in 2005, more than 30 percent (1,073) graduated within four years. This percentage is up from a 15 percent four-year graduation rate 10 years ago.

Koob attributed Cal Poly’s graduation rate to the high-quality students and faculty who care about education, orientation and residential housing programs. These programs are crucial to creating an environment that make students feel comfortable and enables them to succeed. Koob’s goal is to increase the six-year graduation rate 6 percentage points to 80 in the next four years.

Koob plans to raise the rate in part by maintaining and raising an environment that make students feel comfortable and enables them to succeed. Koob’s goal is to increase the six-year graduation rate 6 percentage points to 80 in the next four years.

Koob plans to raise the rate in part by maintaining and raising an already high freshman retention rate. Students returning that first year is key because of high dropout rates at that time. In 2008, 3,450 freshmen enrolled at Cal Poly and 91.4 percent returned as sophomores; it is the highest this rate has been in Cal Poly’s history.

Koob said he does not think the current budget crisis will affect the graduation rates or freshmen return rates.

“The standards haven’t changed; it’s our enforcement that seems to be changing,” he said.

In fact, Koob said it should help students who can’t graduate on time figure out early and decide on other plans. This might translate to higher graduation rates.

“The (graduation) rate will go up because the budget crisis will force us to be more selective,” he said. “We’ve gotten so much better information about what each student needs to take when.”

Carolyn Moore, program coordinator for Career Services and a career counselor, said there was
care about education, orientation and residential housing programs.

Students help out during holiday season

Whether it’s their own initiative, greek life or other clubs some students find a way to give back

Leticia Rodriguez
Mustang Daily

Two college women took it upon themselves to organize a winter clothing drive, fraternity members dodged water balloons and hauled turkeys into delivery trucks to raise money, and clubs in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences competed to see who could donate the most canned food.

In the few weeks before Thanksgiving, students around town and on campus have been volunteering and donating resources to help those in need. Many people get into the spirit of donating because of the season, but these students felt compelled to help in the general spirit of wanting to aid the community.

The Prado Day Center is one organization receiving donations from Cal Poly students. The center assists more than 100 homeless people a day in San Luis Obispo every day by offering shower facilities, job assistance, medical services and more. Maureen Cusick, a five-year volunteer at the center, said it’s not uncommon to see students volunteering.

“A lot of times, kids have done things where it’s a class requirement, but I’ve seen people do it on their own and not come back on their own time,” Cusick said.

Although the majority of the generosity this season takes place in the spirit of Thanksgiving, Cal Poly journalism senior Eva Sanders and her roommate, Cuesta sophomore Erika Anderson first thought of having the Warm A Cold Shoulder winter clothing drive after noticing the homeless people around San Luis Obispo during summer. Sanders said she wondered how they stayed warm during cold winter nights. Sanders and Anderson got the word out about their clothing drive by posting invitations on their Facebook and Twitter accounts. The two also walked through neighborhoods delivering flyers and paper bags. From neighborhoods alone, they collected 50 trash bags full of clothing and almost 150 more after setting up a drop-off location at Meadow Park Nov. 21.

All proceeds went to the Prado Day Center and a Grassroots center in Los Osos.

“We had a better, more enthusiastic reception than we could have imagined. It’s just so cool that so many people want to give and so many people want to help,” Sanders said.

see Thanksgiving, page 2

see Workshop, page 2

Trans 101 educates students

Sarah Mullen
Special to The Mustang Daily

Society looks at a person as a man or a woman, but in reality, there is a spectrum of genders, said Pride Center program assistant Bryn Smith.

“It can be as simple as pronouns,” Smith said. “People who are transgender may not identify as he or she.”

Gender binary is a convention that recognizes male and female as the only genders. It was just one of the items on the agenda for the Pride Center’s Trans 101 Workshop on Wednesday. The workshop included terminology, a question-and-answer period and a facilitated discussion.

The Pride Center really does not educate on transgender issues, said Pride Center student coordinator Jessica Creasy.

“We touch on them a little bit in Ally Training,” Creasy said. “But it is such a complex topic. It really needs a workshop of its own.”

Trans 101 is the first of three events hosted by the Pride Center during Transgender Awareness Days. The center also sponsored a movie night and an art exhibit.

The Pride Center showed “TransAmerica” Wednesday night. The film is about a male to female transgender who leaves his family.

“It shows that transgender people are no different than anyone else,” Pride Center student coordinator Ebony Chetto said.

Last year, the Pride Center played two movies: “TransParent” and “TransGeneration.” “TransParent” is about female to male transgenders who have given birth. “TransGeneration” is about college students who identify as transgender. The movies really help present the difficulties a transgender person faces.

“Transgenderers are some of the most misunderstood, persecuted people on this earth because of the prejudice against them,” Smith said.
Grad rates
continued from page 1
significantly more freedom to take classes when she was a Cal Poly student.
"There was no hurry," Moore said. "We don't hang that heavy.
more said that Cal Poly still has an approach that fosters stu-
dent and faculty relationships. Job
fair, orientations and networking
all add to the Cal Poly experience,
she said. "I think that Cal Poly, as op­
posed to other schools, has a closer
relationship with its students," she said. "My guess, just being here on
campus, is the personal approach
we take to education."

Workshop
continued from page 1
The Pride Center also hosted an art exhibit recognizing victims of violence against people who are transgender. It featured hand­
prints with names of people in the United States who have been tar­
geted of violence because they are
transgender, Smith said.
"We are making a hand-print for each transgender person who was physically harmed in the past year," Smith said. "The list has
more than 260 entries.
"The exhibit gives the community a chance to contribute. Any­
body who knows a transgender person who was a victim of an act of
violence can add their name to
and having them graduate.
"One of the biggest reasons for (high graduation rates) is stu­
dents are required to declare a
major when they apply," Bennett­
Thompson said. "Once they're here, they know they want to be
here."
All these factors lead to Cal Poly having the highest gradu­
ation rate in the CSU system. For
instance, CSU Long Beach has a 54 percent graduation rate over a
six-year period, according to their
Web site.
The University of Californ­
ia system generally has higher
graduation rates. For instance, UC
Santa Barbara has a 61 per­
cent rate in four years and 79 percent in six, according to their
Web site.

Thanksgiving
continued from page 1
said. "We're hoping to make as many people as warm as possible."
The fraternity members of Al­
pho Epsilon Pi wanted to add a
little to their donation event. The frater­
nity wanted to do something a little
more creative this year to not only
get participants, but to also make the event fun and effective. When a
brilliant idea of donation ideas yielded a Turkey Shootout, it

We try and do our part as well as
we can as college students but it's
definitely important that we help
out the local community.

—Billy Michel
Agricultural science senior

to get involved in the turkey drive because the fraternity wants to share with others the blessings they have.
"I think it's important to give back during all times of the year, and that's what we're doing," he said. And with the help of
the community, "I do feel like we're
strongly encouraged in the greek sys­
tem to help. All the proceeds went to
the local community," Michel said.
We do things during other times of the year, you just don't hear about them.
The Collegiate Future Farmers of America (CFFA) also take pride in their yearly canned food drive, the proceeds of which go to the food bank.
The contest is held between the clubs in the CAFES to donate canned food in bins located around the Alan A. Earhart Agriculture build­
ing. The winners are based on the
weight of the club's bins and its deco­
nation. Club member Ellie Michel said that although each club would love to have the bragging rights, as­
sociated with being the winner, their
main focus is to donate as much as possible.
"We try to do our part as well as
we can as college students, but it's
definitely important that we help out the local community," Michel said.
Even though donation events are most acknowledged during the holiday season, Leib would encour­
age students and other community members to give back throughout the year.
"You can, then why not," Leib said. "You should always be trying to help out people that are less for­
tunate than you. This is the time to
remind ourselves what's important in life and try to help out whoever we can."
State

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — A 19-year-old local college student has been diagnosed with a rare species of meningitis, the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department announced Saturday night.

Health officials strongly suspect that he could have the form of the disease known as H5N1 avian meningitis. That form is relatively rare, with up to 3,000 cases nationwide a year, according to health officials.

The young man was described as a "student at a local college," but health officials would not disclose which one.

Bacterial meningitis is spread in saliva or other oral secretions, usually by coughing, kissing and sneezing, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

•••

MONTEREY, Calif. — A state appeals board has ordered reinstatement of eight correctional officers who were fired after they shot an inmate at San Quentin State Prison in the wake of revelations about a rogue gang of guard leaders known as the Green Wall.

The state personnel board ruled last week there was insufficient evidence to support allegations that the officers stood by or helped beat up an inmate during an unauthorized "extraduction" from a caged exercise yard.

National

WASHINGTON (MCT) — Without a vote to spare, Democrats pushed their healthcare overhaul legislation over its first obstacle on the Senate floor Saturday, as the chamber voted to begin formal debate of a sweeping measure to guarantee medical coverage for all Americans.

The 60-39 procedural vote — backed by all 58 Democratic and two independent, with Ohio Republic­an George Voinovich not voting — overcame a Republican-led filibuster designed to block consideration of the bill and kept up momentum behind President Barack Obama's top legislative priority.

•••

FORT HOOD, Texas — Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan faced a pretrial hearing Saturday at the San Antonio Army post where he lies paralyzed in a heavily guarded intensive-care unit.

Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, previously told The Dallas Morning News that Hasan wired money to Pakistan, and police have arrested a terror suspect. McCaul did not link the transfers to U.S.-born al-Awlaki, whose father is suspected in the 9/11 attack.

Friday's pretrial hearing could spell the psychologist's transfer to a jail cell to await trial on 13 counts of premeditated murder, his civilian attorney said Friday.

International

KUWAIT (MCT) — For a second consecutive year, Kuwait again dropped in a global corruption ranking, 190 countries according to a leading global watchdog. Transparency International (TI), a non-partisan global orga­nization, released yesterday the world index that measures corruption levels in the domestic and public sectors. In TI's annual global Corruption Perception Index, (CPI), Kuwait slipped further, from 65 to 66 place in a roster of 180 countries. According to the Copenhagen-based organization fighting worldwide corruption, Kuwait hit the bottom spot as the most corruption country in the Gulf, following Jordan (49) and Tunisia, 65. Kuwait ranks ninth in the Middle East and North African region.

•••

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (MCT) — In 2008, Mexican migrants living in the United States paid $53 billion in taxes, directly and indirectly, which is double the amount of remittances — about $26 billion, they sent home dur­ing the same period.

José Luis Ordaz, an economist and expert in migration and de­velopment from the BBVA-Ban­co­cer Financial Group, said on Wednesday that Mexican can contrib­ute to nearly 4 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

UC Santa Cruz police force demonstrators out of Kerr Hall

J.M. Brown - Santa Cruz Sentinel

SANTA CRUZ — Demonstrators say police officers in riot gear began forcibly removing dozens of barricaded students from UC San­ta Cruz's Clark Kerr Hall at dawn, and after an hour-long standoff, students vacated the administra­tion building.

Protesters have been occupy­ing offices in the building for three days in opposition to a $12 percent fee hike, employee furloughs and other budget cuts. Campus officials had warned of possible arrests on Friday but continued to negotiate with students and faculty advocates until Saturday night, when both sides talk talks broke down.

After students refused to heed an order from police to evacuate the building at 7 a.m. Sunday, offi­cers moved in with batons to force protesters out, according to several people at the scene.

The 70 students barricaded in­side Kerr Hall with cables and of­fice equipment barring the doors, eventually left along with 30 stu­dents who had been standing outside blocking the entrance, said graduate student Don Kingberg, a spokesman for the group. Protest­ers then began marching to Krege Town Hall for what he called "a victory rally."

No arrests were immediately reported, though a faculty mem­ber received minor injuries during a fall from a second-floor railing. While on the phone with the Sen­ator shortly after dawn, Kingberg described a chaotic scene after offi­cers from the University of Cali­fornia police force and Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office arrived.

About 30 demonstrators could be heard chanting "peaceful pro­test" just before Kingberg said of­ficers moved in a line toward the students, who were singing "Let It Be." Kingberg said he watched police strike several students in the chest area with a baton.

He also said officers showed other students who had amassed on a second floor's balcony outside an entrance stairwell. Anthropology professor Mark Anderson, who was among several faculty members on site to observe the showdown, was caught in the crush on the deck and fell off of the railing several feet to the ground, Kingberg said.

Campus spokesman Jim Burns said he could not verify the level of force used to remove students this

Anticipation high for Obama's first state dinner

Katherine Skiba MCCLATCHY NEWSWIRE

WASHINGTON — What's the hottest ticket in the nation's capital? An engraved invitation to Tuesday's White House dinner for State Dinner, the first hosted by President Barack Obama. He and the first lady will honor India's prime minister — in a big way, and in their way. In a departure from the most traditional venue, the elegant, high-classed State Dining Room, the Obamas instead will gather with a few hundred VIPs in a huge, heated tent on the South Lawn.

The guest list for the black-tie gala remains a closely guarded secret, so there's heavy speculation about who may turn up. Expect Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill. Look, too, for top Obama aides, such as David Axelrod, Valerie Jarrett and Rahm Emanuel.

One White House veteran, Dee Dee Myers, who served as press sec­retary for Democratic President Bill Clinton, is certain that there's been a "relentless" lobbying by lesser mortals seeking an invite.

The White House tent is generally drawn by administration officials, members of Congress, the Cabinet and the dip­lomatic corps. Obama donors and corporate titans, Hollywood glamour, athletic greats and leading artists are bound to be thrown into the mix, possibly joined by some academics and journalists.

The gargantuan tent, still being as­sembled late last week, affords a bigger crowd than could fit in the State Din­ing Room, which holds only 140.

After the last glass is raised and the music fades out, the affair will be breathtakingly scrutinized. What did Michelle Obama wear? Did Barack Obama seem larger than life? What did guests eat and drink? How were the music fades out, the affair will be breathtakingly scrutinized. What did Michelle Obama wear? Did Barack Obama seem larger than life? What did guests eat and drink? How were the music fades out, the affair will be breathtakingly scrutinized. What did Michelle Obama wear? Did Barack Obama seem larger than life? What did guests eat and drink? How were the music fades out, the affair will be breathtakingly scrutinized. What did Michelle Obama wear? Did Barack Obama seem larger than life? What did guests eat and drink? How were the

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— Lornma Hinkle

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See Dinner, page 4

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA
WORD ON THE STREET

“What do you think about the class selection offered for winter?”

It’s hard. I didn’t find my classes easy, I had to use a priority."

Jessica Williams, biology junior

“I get priority so it has less of an effect on me. I’ve never really had a problem getting classes.”

Taylor Frostholm, physics senior

“I took a priority and didn’t end up getting all of the GEs that I wanted.”

- Reed Kelly, landscape architecture senior

“It’s scary and depressing. I’m supposed to be graduating but it makes that a lot harder. It doesn’t look hopeful.”

-Nicole Simraski, modern languages and literature senior

“I haven’t registered yet. I’m not too worried though.”

-Jared Lee, environmental engineering junior

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama attend the Congressional Black Caucus’ annual Phoenix Awards dinner at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C.

William Allman and Tanya Turner, a State Department protocol official. That preview event will be held in the State Dining Room, the space place the Obamas are shunning to style the party in their own way.

Tented parties for state dinners aren’t entirely new. For example, President Clinton in his final year in office had about 700 guests under a tent for an earlier Indian prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

There are two views when a president takes his guests into his sprawling backyard. You lose the intimacy, history and formality of the State Dining Room, but you gain space for more guests, in itself as stuffy and you have more freedom in styling the party.

Myers said the Clintons heard some complaints about their tented runners, but you gain space for more guests, in itself as stuffy and you have more freedom in styling the party.

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Best Bargain Meal
Best Sushi
Best Sandwich
Best BBQ
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Best Auto Shop
Best On-Campus Student Housing
Best Off-Campus Student Housing
Best Place to Buy School Supplies
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Best Craft Store
Best Hotel for Your Parents
Best Grocery Store
Best Organic Grocery Store
Best Local Wine
Best Keg Deal
Best Hair Salon
Best Nail Salon
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Every Monday, cut out this fridge for the weeks happenings

More Bars & Restaurants Coming Soon...
Student Community Services (SCS), annual See the Need Week dus attention to the very seri­
ous hunger and homelessness is­
issues worldwide and in San Luis
Obispo. The week was filled with
many different events, including
speeches from experts, hunger
demonstrations and meals at local
shelters.

"Most people in San Luis
Obispo are fairly afHuent and
don’t realize how much assistance
the hungry and homeless realK
need or the mam wavs the’ can
help the less fortunate,” said Tara
Johnston, one of the director co­
ordinators of SCS.

See the Need Week offered
several opportunities to help, be­
ginning on the weekend of Nov.
14-15 with food drives at local
grocery stores like Scolari’s Mar­
ket and Food 4 Less.

"We like to be very commu­
nity-oriented and participate, and
we really support Cal Poly’s ef­
tors,” said Beth Hatchard, man­
ger of the San Luis Obispo Food
4 Less.

For more information on how to help, see the Need, page 8

Murphy’s rounds out album of
the decade series with nostalgic,
melodramatic lyrics

Nostalgia is a dangerous thing.
The past was not how we remem­
bree it, and we simply will never
relive whatever warm-fuzzies we
think existed in the nebulous "back
then." Example: I will never get that
soft-focus childhood Christmas,
even after I’ve eaten a whole stack
of Advent calendars in the attempt.

James Murphy, the man behind
LCD Soundsystem, knows the allure
of such straw-grasping exercises.

"Sound of Silver," Murphy’s 2007
release, takes a long, hard look at
some of the “Millenials’” hangups:
early-onset, pseudo-mid-life crises
and nostalgic longing for the ri­
duously recent past: “You turned
25, and you’ re all out of escapes,”
sings in “Watch the Tapes,” ex­
pressing a panicked, melodramatic
sentiment that would be absurd ex­
ccept for the fact that it typifies the
honest-to-god thinking of a shiny,
new adulthood.

The epic pile-driver of the re­
cord, “All My Friends,” uses senti­
mentality over raw panic to create
a compulsive dance song that el­
evates “running out of drugs” and
drunken treks home at d.iw n to the
stutV o f sighing remembraiu e, the
Circular, ceaseless piano marching
on aS endlessly as the days of your
life ticking by.

As Murphy layers progressively
more chaos into the mix, you can’t
help but be sucked into mytholo­
gizing your own analogous expe­
riences as beautiful and precious,
simply because they are gone: “You
spend the first five years trying
to get with the plan, and the next five
years trying to be with your friends
again.” In fact, listening to this song
in the right context, I’ve found my­
self overwhelmed with ileist.nently
produced nostalgia for the present,
as illogical as that is.

Similarly, “Someones Great” has a persistently
wistful content and real
danceability (I think it’s
the Glockenspiel
that really pulls
the whole thing
together). The
lyrics lend
themselves

to multiple read­
ings, with
the lost
“someone,”
possibly an
ex-lover or a
recently-deceased
mentor: “You’re small­
er than my w ife imagined
Sill prised, you were hu­
man.”

Even the
pilgrims sold
their books
back.

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James Lileks
New York Magazine
You know, I'm a lazy son of a gun.

So says Stephen King, a man who just published a story in the New Yorker, authored the Raymond Carver biography in the New York Review of Books. He also has a piece in the horror magazine Fangoria and a poem in the current issue of Playboy. Anything else? Under the Dome, his 51st novel, all 1,072 pages, drops this month. He just finished a five-part graphic novel for DC comics, as well. In his spare time, perhaps between putting away the breakfast dishes and waiting for the computer to boot up, he wrote a musical with John Mellencamp.

Larry will get to tell. Let's get the obvious stuff out of the way first. No, he didn't speak up at the D.C. capitol with a gun in his hand but just known to his staff and had some interesting ideas.

A normal fellow — except for the peculiar personal habits of some of the most successful authors in history, the American answer to Dickens.

How things fall apart, how ordinary folk react to extraordinary, inexplicable circumstances, these are timeless King themes. So perhaps it's apt that they come together in a twist: the novel's been working on more than half of his fans have been alive.

I talked to King last year, got about 75 pages into it — and then I saw what I thought of the scope was going to be, how many technological issues it raised, and I backed. I'm not a sci-fi writer; I don't think I know a lot about technology, so I thought I'd try again, set it in an apartment building, and then I wouldn't have to deal with what the weather would be like under a dome. But I didn't like any of the characters, so I put it away.

When he returned to the book later years, he had help with issues most of as was his wont in such work: he always going over them like a laundry list (over) and (under) the characters, and perfectly capturing the causal (however genuine) self-hated held by US citizens born after the seventies. This song seems to pop up everywhere ("Step- brothers") with seemingly no reason. But of course, no one really cares what the lyrics are in dance records, right?

Anyway, the story goes that the last 10 years or whatever have meant all pretty much in cultural values (cultural-studies whatevers Howie & Strauss going for as so called "North American Scum" a Great Generation), but some things never change, and if the Millenials are anything going over with their baby boomer parents, it's chronic nostalgia and a genu ina lack of self-consciousness. The Silver" has the unique ability to convey this feeling in all understanding. While it is or endangering it directly, which is pretty impressive for a dance record.

Jesse Brown Whittaker is a KCPR DJ and "Hipster Bullettini" column.

The Need

See the Need

from continued page 7

were held on campus outside Campus Market and Village Market, offering students a more direct way to purchase food. School supplies will be brought to New Orleans over winter break by members of Student Life. We can only hope that in the weeks that follow, we see a better response from all groups: the proper way to donate. The school supplies program serves an explanation.

of you while you're typing, politics becomes obsolete. Things move on. When you write it, you're a prisoner of your time."

So a lazy son of a gun, eh?

I wanted to amuse myself, because if it doesn't interest me, it won't interest anyone else.

—Stephen King

science-fiction author

It's been diverted by the bad guys But King had the same question at the readers. What caused a typical American town to be cut off from the world on an ordinary October day? I knew what was generating the dome, but I had no idea why or why or what. I think things happen, and we don't understand why one of the great attractions of some stories is the uncertainty.

But that's his strong suit, really; the uncertainties provide more delicious shivers than the answers. "From a Buick 8" a novel about the Maine Highway Patrol that also happens to be about a car from another world that spews night-marsh flora from its trunk, has no answers. We're not really sure what happened in the '20s or the Over look or "Under the Dome" ar we? There's a handful of smoke at the heart of his best stories. Is this any different?

"I went into this with a commitment to letting the reader know they find out why it all happened. In a book this long, the reader does explain an answer."

"Under the Dome" is a one-on-one relationship. At this point in his career, the Maine author, 71, said, "I wanted a different kind of story," he said. "I wanted to amuse myself, because if it doesn't interest me, it won't interest anyone else."

When he first started selling big, he hit a sweet spot that seldom happens in publishing and is rarely maintained: over decades: instant connection with a large audience. It was as if the subconscious of the era was a downed power line, sparking and dancing, and King just happened to pick it up and plug it in.

Or so it seemed. The success has caught him off guard, and he's guard the book as the literary equivalent of a big tub of buttered popcorn. The much-praised movie version of "The Shining," was seen as more director Stanley Ku nock's version, which was cut by 600 pages. Not that there was anything wrong with it — the kind of book-handling Doubledeal used back then it made impossible to be printed as one volume. So I said yes to the cut — I needed the money."

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If you read "Under the Dome" closely, you'll see my blind spots. There's a reference to Facebook, but not to Twitter — that's the Internet I don't understand." He laughs about the one pop-culture event he missed completely: "My sister read it, and she knew, you're something like this in the Simpson's movie. The whole town is under a dome. At least someone in the book should mention it.

If the movies don't get in front of you while you're typing, politics will.

"In the first draft of the book, the president is consistently referred to as she, because I was convinced that the story wouldn't go to win. It's hard; all this stuff becomes obsolete. Things move on. When you write it, you're a prisoner of your time."

So a lazy son of a gun, eh?

Science-fiction author Stephen King releases 51st novel

Author Stephen King has published 51 novels to date. His latest release, "Under the Dome," came out Nov. 10.

"I tried as much as I could to move the book from 1978 to 1988. I didn't want it to be something caught in the past — you want to believe the future is happening right after tomorrow."

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Poly student sustainability mindset needs improvement

The time Cal Poly students spend studying for exams, writing research papers, and following Cal Poly's mission statement of learn by doing makes them extremely attractive candidates for employment upon graduation. But what virtue of our time as Cal Poly students leaves us so well off? How do long days and all-nighters translate to a successful education? Although knowledge gained in college gives us an edge when seeking employment, I think we're missing one major component beyond the wealth of knowledge that we acquire from our respective studies. We must develop a unique epistemology of thinking systems that is an understanding of how systems can be solved by looking at the components as part of the whole. In this sense, it is within our innate ability to devise a mindset for our actions, both personally (as part of the whole) and within our studies at Cal Poly. I ask this question: Is something missing from our current mindset as students?

Our Personal Lives

Developing a holistic mindset that allows us as individuals to think about our impact on the world is thinking with a split frame of mind. This mindset includes looking inward at our personal actions (micro) and is also looking at our contributing effects at a global level (macro). As individuals in a world economy, each and every one of us holds the power to decide which products are produced simply by buying them or not. So when a person walks into a retail store and buys something, he or she is approving the product, how it is made, what materials are in it, the manufacturer and what strains it might leave on the environment both in its production and after it is used, consumed and thus discarded. It is purchasing power that drives the economy. It is the actions that we take as individuals that fuel the innovation toward a more sustainable lifestyle, for consumers, businesses, the government and the world collectively.

Sustainability is Our Future

Although sustainability has just recently found limelight in the mainstream, it is a topic and a way of life that has been part of human civilizations since antiquity. A sustainable mindset is one that seeks to better environmental, economic, cultural and social standards. It is a basic survival skill that invests health, wellness and prosperity of future generations. If we as students develop a sustainable mindset as part of the whole, we will have the ability to perceive a whole system of thinking in which we can all play a part. If agricultural students develop sustainable local agriculture, architecture students design sustainable buildings, engineering students design sustainable structures, computer science students develop sustainable economic models, and philosophy students develop sustainable ethical models, we will be setting the foundation for a sustainable revolution.

Make Sustainability Your First

I believe we are missing the sustainability element in our mindset as students. So how do we get to that point? As students of a polytechnic university, we have the ability to accentuate a specific line of study. If sustainability is something that you would like embedded into your studies at Cal Poly, ask for it to be taught in your classes. Research like crazy. Learn everything you can about the current happenings of the sustainable movement and bring them into your various classroom discussions. It is a paradigm shift in the way that we must begin to think about our lives and the effects we have on the world. If we understand the impacts of our day-to-day decision making and make the smartest choices possible, we will be living green. It is that simple. We must begin to cultivate this mindset within our own minds in order to live green from within.

Tyler Harrich is a city and regional planning senior, Emmanuel Poly Coalition vice president and Mustang Daily columnist.

If you'd like to contribute to "The Green Spot," be sure to know at mustangdaily@gmail.com.

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Mustang Daily
"Mustang good penetration."
Cal Poly holds back Pepperdine behind Santiago

Megan Hassler

A 33-18 advantage in free throw attempts helped the Cal Poly women's basketball team edge Pepperdine 62-59 at Mott Gym Saturday.

In the last three minutes of the first half, junior forward Kristina Santiago went to the free throw line 12 times. She sunk nine of 14 from the stripe overall.

With four players out with injuries and Santiago playing with a back injury, the team has had to adjust. Players have stepped up to fill the gaps.

"It is always physical, especially when you play a post position, so I was kind of expecting it, but I am always a little cautious because of my back," Santiago said.

The physicality of the game led both teams to the free throw line. "It's as physical as you want to be," Santiago said. "Most of the time, I can overcome it because I just get used to the game I don't really think about it."

After the fouls against Santiago in the first half, the Mustangs continued to try to keep Pepperdine from penetrating the key.

"We definitely wanted to take them out of penetration, that's their game," head coach Faith Mimnaugh said. "In the games we have been watching of them, they live at the free throw line they penetrate the ball so much."

Cal Poly was able to hold off the Waves as they came back in the second half. At the half, the Mustangs held the lead 32-23, but the Waves closed the point gap.


"Rebounding is just my job, so I get on the court and all I want to do is rebound offensively and defensively," Gregersen said. "You need to be a scorer; you don't need to be anything else. You need the boards no matter what."

Junior guard Rachel Cadancy said rebounding was a point of emphasis for the team.

Another point of emphasis is keeping Santiago on the court. "One of our goals this year is seeing how long we can keep Santiago on the court," Mimnaugh said. "She is a heck of a player, and the more minutes she gets on the court, probably the better we are going to do."

The end of the fourth minute in the second half, Santiago received her fifth foul.

"It is probably the worst thing as a basketball player to foul out," Santiago said. "You kind of feel like you let your team down, you let yourself down, you can't let the fans down," Santiago said.

Even with a player out of the game, Cal Poly was able to maintain the lead to the end. Knowing the Waves had just come off a 49-point loss to Stanford helped the Mustangs focus from the beginning of the game.

"We knew they would be hungry and turning up the pressure right from the get-go," Clancy said.

The Mustangs matched that pressure Saturday. Santiago led the Mustangs with 15 points, followed by Clancy who went 5-6 from the field with 13 points.

Kate Menton led the Waves with 20 points.

The Mustangs will host the third annual Courtyard by Marriott Holiday Beach Classic Nov. 28-29. The Mustangs will play Illinois to kick off the competition at 2 p.m. Saturday Nov. 28 in Mott Gym.

Junior forward Kristina Santiago posted 15 points despite fouling out with four minutes left in the game against the Waves.
Mustangs sweep Cal State Northridge to end season

Kate McIntyre

With six freshmen, the Cal Poly women’s volleyball team is young, but all 13 team members grew up over the course of the 2009 season, according to head coach Jon Stevenson. With a 29-match slate and only 11 home games, Stevenson said the team was right when he said that the team has been through a lot this season.

“They began a totally different team from start to finish,” Stevenson said.

Cal Poly was selected for a third-place finish in the Big West Conference standings following the results of the preseason coaches poll; as a result of Friday night’s game, they placed seventh out of nine.

Going into its last game of the 2009 regular season, the Cal State Northridge Matadors had a half-game lead in the battle for seventh-place in the Big West standings. But Cal Poly (9-20, 5-11) won 3-0 Nov 20 at Mott Gym, 25-18, 25-17, 25-21, earning its ninth-straight victory against Cal State Northridge (8-21, 4-11) since 2005.

Stevenson said the game was a great way to end the regular season, capping three months of intense competition, practice and even transformation. The team changed a lot over the course of this season in the players’ attitudes and interactions, he said.

Not only did the players grow during the three-month season, Stevenson added, their skills improved on the court.

At their first 2009 season game against Oregon State Aug. 28, the team recorded a 196-attack percentage, but on Friday night, the three sets averaged .272. Stevenson attributed the night’s high hitting percentage to good passing. The team’s attack percentage for the season was .195.

If effective passing is what it takes to win a game, Cal Poly can credit reserve setter Haylei Fishian for Friday night’s game. While her teammates had either one or no assists, Fishian recorded 32 assists against CSUN, more than any other player.

Kate McIntyre

Volleyball | GAME 1 25-18 CAL POLY, GAME 2 25-17 CAL POLY, GAME 3 25-21 CAL POLY

Mustangs fall to Wildcats in season finale

Brian De Los Santos

A 47-14 season-ending loss to Weber State Sunday marked the end of Cal Poly head coach Tim Walsh’s first season leading the Mus-

tangs.

The former Portland State head coach led Cal Poly to a 4-7 record, cracking up four consecutive losses for the first time since 2002.

Before the Mustangs, Walsh had a 117-82 record in 18 seasons as a head coach. His 14-year stint with Portland State (1986-96) and his four years at Sonoma State (89-92) netted him a 70 career-winning percentage.

His first year at Cal Poly resulted in a 47 winning percentage, 11 points lower than the Mustangs’ all-time record as a football team (453-356-20).

Succeeding former head coach Rich Ellerson, who departed last year for Army, Walsh has echoed Cal Poly’s first wireless mail schedule in 11 years.

Under Ellerson, four-year starters Raines Barden, James Noble, Stephen Field and Tre’dale Toliver transferred. Ryan Male and Jonathan Daly departed after an 8-3 season.

This season, the roster featured 64 underclassmen.

Cal Poly held 37 upperclassmen, including 12 seniors who played their final game as a Mustang this weekend. The group includes the likes of Jono Grayson, Carlson Gillespie and Jon Hall, among others.

It was deja vu for Cal Poly as No. 12 Weber State ended Cal Poly’s sea-

son for the second consecutive year.

The Mustangs’ offense slogged ear-

ly, piecing together an 80-yard drive capped with a 28-yard David Mahl touchdown reception for the first possession of the game.

Weber State responded, notching

31 points in the second quarter against a Cal Poly defense that has struggled in past weeks.

Thirty-eight points, 293 yards and three Mustang turnovers later, Cal Poly answered back.

Junior fullback Jordan Yocum caught a 12-yard touchdown pass from Smith, ending a 70-yard, 16-play drive that took 8:43 off the clock in the third quarter.

Weber State added a field goal and junior quarterback Cameron Higgins’ fourth touchdown pass to complete the offensive showcase.

Wildcat senior running back Trevyn Smith cracked the 5,000-yard mark in career rushing. Higgins, who passed for 364 yards, connected with Bo Bolen on a 15-yard scor-

ning pass and with Tim Teoone on 26-, 17- and 44-yard touchdown passes as Weber State improved to 7-4.

Teoone finished the regular season with his 200th career catch and 28th career touchdown. He had 11 catches for 176 yards against the Mustangs.

Cal Poly’s leaders on offense were Jake Romanelli, with 55 yards rushing on 15 carries, and Smith, who completed 11 of 24 passes for 166 yards and both Mustang touchdowns. He was sacked five times and threw a pair of interceptions.

M帅t, Jon Hall, Eric Gendley and John Grayson each had a pair of catches for Cal Poly.

Junior linebacker Marty Mohamed recorded eight tackles and senior cornerback Xavier Gardner added seven for Cal Poly.

For Weber State, Higgins completed 23 of 33 passes. He passed for 399 yards and two scores in a 49-35 win over the Mustangs in last year’s first-round NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoff game.

This season Cal Poly’s rushing attack ran for 1,963 yards and the Mustang passing threat contributed 1,686.

This season marked a 1,408-yard drop-off on the ground.

Senior Matt Frost was named a first team selection by MaxPreps.com.

NICK CAMACHO Mustang Daily file photo

Wildcats quarterback Cameron Higgins passed for 399 yards and two scores against the Mustangs, who finish 4-7.

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NICK CAMACHO Mustang Daily file photo

Senior Haylei Fishian was the lone senior honored at senior night. She leaves the Mustangs as the eighth-best assist leader in school history.