Dang, he’s good

Kate McIntyre

Phong Dang is not unlike many Cal Poly students in that he doesn’t like to talk in class. But with a 3.779 GPA, it’s not because he doesn’t know the answer.

Dang, 21, was the 2009 California Polytechnic State University recipient of the William Randolph Hearst California State University (CSU) Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. The award and a $5,000 scholarship is given to one student from each CSU campus. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0, demonstrate financial need, community service and ability to overcome adversity, and be enrolled full-time for the 2009-10 academic year.

Dang is a finance senior and economics minor from the O’Rafales College of Business. “My family wanted me to study to be a pharmacist, but I just love business,” he said. “I want to do business because I want to have a business.”

Dang said he admires his brother for wanting to help people. “When he grows up, maybe he can be a rich man. Rich in money and rich in love also. He wants to have much money to help himself, his family and the poor people,” Phu Dang said in an e-mail.

Dang may not talk much or be social, Phu Dang said, but that doesn’t mean he doesn’t know anything. The three brothers studied math in Vietnam, so they have an advantage over other students, he said, but they still study hard because there is more to learn. Dang said he studies more than 40 hours a week.

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Phong Dang won the William Randolph Hearst California State University Trustees’ Award.

Alexandra Sousa

Despite the controversial nature of stem cell research, Cal Poly biomedical engineering students said it needs to be explored and developed.

“There is huge potential in stem cells and we are on the cutting edge of this new technology,” biomedical engineering senior Kathryn Kirk said.

Abbeysa Saud, a biomedical engineering senior, has thought about working with stem cell research since she first saw the movie “Gattaca.” “This is a sophomore in high school and it flooded (her) mind with ideas for the future.”

“Stem cell research is so controversial because of the media,” Kirk said. “There are a few ethical considerations, but when we look at the facts, the process is not as terrible as it is made out to be.”

Most people believe that the only way to get stem cells is through an aborted fetus. That is absolutely not true.

The best time to harvest stem cells is a week after fertilization, making it impossible to get at the embryos at this point, she added. The study of induced pluripotent stem cells as well as cord blood are some alternatives to stem cell research, she said.

“There are adult stem cells (which don’t have the potential to create as many types of cells as human embryonic stem cells) that can be induced to be more potent,” she said. “There is also a lot of research going on with cord blood which is taken during birth. Cord blood has been used in a treatment in a couple of cases of cerebral palsy and is currently in a clinical study with type I diabetes.”

No matter what the controversy, both of these students and many others believe that the only way to get stem cells is through an aborted fetus. That is absolutely not true.

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see Phong Dang, page 10

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Stem cell

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others say that stem cell research is very important.

"I personally believe that stem cells will open medicine into a whole new world," Smith said. "Most scientists have given researchers the opportunity to model the physiology, processes that occur in the body, giving them more and more insight as to how the body works and understand how to treat it. I think that stem cells will be the future of medicine and it is important to support it." Cal Poly has received a grant from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) that will give 10 students hands-on work in the stem cell research field.

Professor Kristen O’Halloran Cardinal explained that the three-year grant is a "multi-disciplinary program for master students who are in the biomedical engineering, animal science and biology that allows students to go into and experience the specific field of stem cell research."

The program offers certain classes on campus that will help prepare students for the off-site internship.

"All the coursework that they take here on campus will have a very intense lab work component so that the students have the tools they need in order to get right into the lab when they begin their internship," O’Halloran Cardinal said.

Although students will not necessarily be working with stem cells off campus, they will be learning the techniques and skills they need to jump right into the lab during the nine-month internship, she added.

To get into the program, students had to submit a one-page personal statement about their desired area of research, current scientific background, the names of two professors who would vouch for their work and had to sign a paper acknowledging what the program entails.

When asked what she found unique about the CIRM program, Smith said "for me, the program is really tailored to stem cell research. We learn about developmental biology as well as tissue engineering aspects of modern medicine using stem cells."

The CIRM internship is one that will show students in this department, as well as in animal science and biology, what they have learned in the classroom in a real research atmosphere.

"It is important to educate students and the community about stem cell research," O’Halloran Cardinal said. "People in our society are unaware of the different types of sources of stem cells (adult stem cells vs. embryonic stem cells, etc.)."

"This program will help expose Cal Poly students to cutting edge technologies and research in fields that will make a major impact on medical care in the future."

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Stakes are high as doubt is cast on forensic lab techniques

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Monday, January 4, 2010
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Hybrid classes create challenges for instructors and students

Katelyn Smith
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG NEWS

Some students who signed up for the course did so because they did not have enough time in their schedule for a class that meets four days a week and others had taken another hybrid course which they excelled in.

"I am more into learning in my own type of a person, so I feel that the hybrid course gives me more time to go to my own pace," animal science junior Fresse Bumpus said.

Given students the freedom to do their work online independent of the classroom is reason enough for teachers to be worried that their students' grades will be brought down by procrastination, Chance said.

In order for her students to not get sidetracked by procrastination, Chance sends her students updates via Blackboard regularly, including homework and lab assignments due at certain points during the quarter.

In the hybrid class, Chance said she understands that there is a lack of class bonding, and many assignments that can be done in groups are done alone because students are just not able to get to know each other when they only meet once a week.

"The thing I would improve most in the course is to make sure they get to meet each other and they can work with each other outside of class," she said. "I don't do enough community building and don't do much with any kind of discussion board where they are talking to each other as much as they probably should."

This quarter, time in the lab was optional since Chance was not able to coordinate a day to have her students work in the lab before registration opened. Students were not aware of the need to set aside time to have a lab, so many scheduled other classes during that time.

"The optimal schedule in the future would be maybe to have it as an optional lab and to have it at a time when there is a high likelihood they will be able to attend," Chance said.

Chance said the students' anxiety with the subject of statistics and is happy when they asked questions about the content.

"People do ask a lot more questions in class, which is one of kind fun, but also indicates a little more annoyance, they realize they aren't getting it," Chance said. "But they are asking questions, and that kind of interaction is much better in the hybrid course, whereas in the regular class they don't say much."

Some of the students in the hybrid class would rather Chance teach them the lessons each time they meet, rather than going over

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Hybrid classes create challenges for instructors and students

Katelyn Smith
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG NEWS

Statistics professor Beth Chance is learning how to redesign a class.

She began teaching a hybrid STAT 217 course last spring, this quarter she is learning what it might change as a teacher.

"It is been very challenging to develop this new course and we are still looking for ways to best fit the unique needs of Cal Poly students," Chance said.

The change she's considering could be attributed to the fact that the course may not have been the easiest first choice for a hybrid course in the statistics department.

A hybrid course is a class that mixes online and in-class elements. So much of the material is expected to be learned outside of the classroom.

"It's a GE course that many people are already apprehensive about and not everyone is even comfortable with the heavy technology use," she said. "Many of these students need more support, not less."

Chance had planned for the course to give the students more free time to themselves outside of the classroom, since it only meets once a week. It was also intended to give them the ability to control what they learn, when they learn it and how they learn it, through the extensive use of online applications.

"It's not possible to state with any scientific certainty that this bullet came from any weapon in the world," said Siegel, who is the chairman of the department of chemistry and chemical biology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and director of the Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program.

Other identification methods widely used by forensic scientists, the panel added, also haven't been validated.

How did a scientifically unproven method receive the blessing of the FBI and forensic "experts" across the nation and other crime lab methods become so widely accepted?

"In a nutshell, these people aren't scientists," said Jay A. Siegel, a member of the academy, which was established by President Abraham Lincoln to advise the nation on far-reaching questions of science and technology. "They don't know what validation is. They don't know what it means to validate a test."

Bullet matching — a practice that takes place every day in Texas crime labs — isn't reliable, Siegel said, and no studies have been conducted to prove the extent to which firearms marks are unique.

"They don't know what validation is. They don't know what methods can be done in groups and don't do much with any kind of discussion board where they are talking to each other as much as they probably should."

This quarter, time in the lab was optional since Chance was not able to coordinate a day to have her students work in the lab before registration opened. Students were not aware of the need to set aside time to have a lab, so many scheduled other classes during that time.

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Some of the students in the hybrid class would rather Chance teach them the lessons each time they meet, rather than going over

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what they taught themselves the previous week and correcting their mistakes.

"It would have been easier for her to read it in our minds everything that we need to know, instead of just reviewing what you did wrong," said environmental management sophomore Jason Slamovich, feels.

"Especially in math, where you date weekly a day that will have holidays that quarter. I can make the schedule easier for them to attend."

"So every class that we meet, they know its online before they even sign up and I can make them take a "readiness" test before they sign up," Chance said.

"I don't see myself spending less time on the course yet — my time is spent differently, partly in the materials development but also in trying to give more individualized feedback to students — so I'm not sure there will be much "saving" in the long run," Chance said. "But I think once the course is better developed we really could take more advantage of the more individualized instruction and learning opportunities, really being able to offer different students the different types of help they want."

News editor: Tim Miller
mustangdailynews@gmail.com
Monday, January 4, 2010

Hybrid programs are new to Cal Poly and Chance is finding much of it difficult with this course originates from bringing in the small class size benefit of knowing each student and being able to work with them individually. Online interactions, she said, do not compare to classroom interactions and many of the quirks of the course can only be fixed with superior computer programs that bring the students and the teacher closer together online.

"You also need to remember that more faculty at Cal Poly are here because we like the small classes and getting to know our students personally," she said. "This is harder in the online course."

Chance realizes that tackling a new course is a challenge, one she is ready to take on because she sees many positive aspects of the course, likes the ability to offer more classes at reasonable times because it would only be offered once a week, and the different applets and visuals that students can have online that are difficult to use in a normal classroom setting.

"Cal Poly has been having to do more 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. classes just to fit into the rooms, so this would allow multiple classes to have say a 10 a.m. meeting time just once a week-type thing," Chance said. "The course is now able to do a lot more with applets and visualizations that I think are very helpful to a large majority of our students."

The hybrid version of STAT 217 is a work in progress; it has its ups and downs, Chance said.

Cal Poly has been having to do more 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. classes just to fit into the rooms ...

—Beth Chance
Statistics professor
out how to proceed by gathering information in hearings and developing standards for Texas labs.

The commission postponed the discussions in October, in the heat of scandals over Republican Gov. Rick Perry's replacement of several members. But commission member Sarah Kerrigan wrote in an e-mail that she and new board Chairman John Bradley were committed to the discussions.

If the discussions do take place, criminalists and crime lab directors across Texas will likely blast the academy's report, "Strengthening Forensic Science in the U.S.: A Path Forward."

Faulty techniques and scandals at crime labs have hurt, Texas criminalist Max Courtney acknowledged. The state commission was formed in the wake of scandals at crime labs in Houston and Fort Worth. Still, that doesn't mean the methods themselves are flawed, he said.

"These are all valid sciences," Courtney said. "Just because someone does a bum rap somewhere doesn't mean the science is flawed."

Ron Fazo, director of Integrated Forensic Laboratories in Euless, echoes the point. "If somebody drives and drinks and kills somebody, that's horrible, but that doesn't mean that all driving is bad," Fazo said. "The person who made the mistake needs to be dealt with, but that doesn't mean we outlaw driving.

"Same thing with this. It's not a failing of the discipline; it's a failing of the individual."

Between the nation's science advisers and some crime lab directors is one point of agreement: Such identification techniques are riddled with bias that can affect test results. This subjectivity hasn't been measured by study and needs to be, they agree.

"We are concerned and we completely agree with that, that bias exists, absolutely," said Irma Rios, director of the Houston Police Department crime lab and former supervisor of the Texas Department of Public Safety serology lab.

That's where the magnanimity ends. Outraged crime lab officials say the academy's scientists are suggesting that fingerprinting and other identification methods be discarded. The officials attest that studies have proved that their methods are valid, supported by proper protocols.

But the report's authors say those are misunderstandings. Just because the tests have not been validated doesn't mean they are wrong and should be discarded, Siegel said. Nor did the report suggest that old cases be overturned, he said.

"One of the confusions that occurred from the report is the assertion that since these tests haven't been validated, they shouldn't be used," said Courtney. "We're not saying..."
The report doesn't say that firearms identification, for example, is "junk" or "flawed," he said.

But it and other methods "just haven't been subjected to testing that needs to be done in order that these conclusions can be scientifically supported," he said. "What we said in the report is the jury is still out there until this scientific testing is done."

The academy committee reviewed various tests that crime labs cite as validating their work. But the panel said it couldn't find any substantial research to support the validity of these methods, regarding how long the techniques have been used.

There's enough variability and doubt in the other identification methods that one can't trust them, the panel said. That makes them "subrigorous," said Karen Kaladir, an academy member and a statistics professor in the department of mathematical and statistical sciences at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Fire trials? Ballistics matching? Tool marks? Footwear impressions?

When somebody's life is at stake, the scientists say, it's a no-can-do.

"The level of rigor to which you have to hold something to a process that has a life-or-death consequence — you can't just have 'junk' or 'flawed,'" Kaladir said.

You may not expect someone in Texas to be convicted of a crime based on "down-home voodoo."

But that's how the Innocence Project described the dog scent lineups that led to the arrests of at least three men, two of whom spent months in jail for crimes they did not commit. Charges against two of the men were dismissed after another man confessed. In a separate case where a dog bunched a crime scene evidence to a suspect, burglary charges against the man were dismissed because the crimes continued while he was in jail.

At the round-table discussions, the Texas Forensic Science Commission was expecting to review dog scent lineups among other methods, said former member Alice Watts, a DNA and quality assurance expert in Edinburg. The discussions were expected to draw judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, crime lab accreditation agencies and the state attorney general's office.

"The goal was to get people talking," Watts said.

The discussions were also aimed at encouraging cooperation among labs, she said. If one was overloaded with casework, could another lab help ease that load? Did forensic scientists have some ideas for re­searching their methods? Would some university graduate students be interested in doing such re­search projects?

"We want to know what were some of the problems that forensic science had encountered that coincided with the NAS report and also the things that contradicted the NAS report," she said.

Even some examiners note weaknesses in methods. For example, no standard exists even for finger­printing analysis. An examiner might look at free matching points in a print to reach a conclusion, another might look at 10.

Kaladir also raises issues with the clarity of the print, whether it has a smudge, and the type of surface used to lift it. Too many vari­ables can cast doubt on the reliability of the analysis, she said.

A case in point: The FBI had to do a double take on an Oregon attorney identified through its finger­printing database as the match to prints found on a bag of detonators at the site of the 2004 Madrid train bombing. A counterterrorism expert was quoted in a news report saying the fingerprint impression was "an absolutely incontrovertible match" to the attorney, Brandon Mayfield, a Muslim convert.

It turned out that the fingerprint impression wasn't Mayfield's. He sued the federal govern­ment for the botched analysis and collected millions.

A fingerprinting supervisor had checked out the match and told his technicians that the fingerprint was Mayfield's. The technicians echoed the supervisor's finding, leading to a breakdown in the chain of command, a panel that reviewed the case wrote.

To Jody Hynes, forensic technical manager at The Forensic Testing Laboratories in Las Cru­ces, N.M., who mainly does DNA identification, methods such as finger­print and firearms analysis are more subjective. In DNA, all
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Examiners come to the same conclusion in fingerprinting, examiners can have conflicting opinions, she said. (Identical twins share DNA but for each it could alter over time.)
Identification methods rely on human observation, Hynes said. A person must look at a fingerprint, over time. (For example, the scientists were looking for certain blind studies of tool markings and found none.)
In a blind study, the examiner knows the outcome of a tire tread match, but the information is withheld from participants who conduct the examination. If the method is valid, all participants should come to the same conclusion; in fingerprinting, examiners can have conflicting opinions, she said. (For example, the scientists were looking for certain blind studies of tool markings and found none.)
Fazio said there are studies that validate firearms examination. That's where he faults the academy's report, which said no scientific study existed. To back his point, Fazio provided a series of studies to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.
"The NAB report clearly stated that we have done none of this, when in fact we have done a significant body of work," he said.
But Siegel, who reviewed the data at the request of the Star-Telegram, said the studies Fazio cited do not have scientific criteria for the basis of the identification and no criteria for the quality of the match. He also noted that most of the studies were conducted by firearms examiners and published mainly in their journals.
"They do not amount to proving the unsupposable," he wrote in an e-mail.
Fazio's reasoning is also circular, Siegel wrote. "He defines individualization in such a way as to meet his needs. He makes assertions that are by definitions when they are his definitions."
Kafadar said she and other committee members who spent two years analyzing research and data found no studies that met their criteria. Fazio and other crime lab experts said it was never clear what those criteria were.
For example, the scientists were looking for certain blind studies of tool markings and found none.
"I would trust a fingerprinting person over an eyewitness account any day," Hynes said. "But eyewitnesses are always presented, so at what point do you draw the line?"
The key is to stick to the facts, as Fazio said he does. An FBI database may show an assortment of guns that may match a bullet. In that case, the examiner will say the bullet shows a "positive identification" with a number of guns. That's good information for a jury to have, Hynes said. "But take a hair sample from a crime scene. The examiner may look at characteristics of the hair and state whether it is "similar" or "dissimilar" to the hair of a defendant, Hynes said. The comparison should stop there. If it doesn't, and the examiner says it is "very certain" that the hair came from the defendant, that would be erroneous information to provide a jury.
"They're leaning toward what the science can't do," she said. "In those instances, it's not the science that's the problem. It's the experts going beyond experts and exaggerating what science can do.
"Forensic practitioners say the adversarial court system wreaks out such fraudulent testimony. A defense attorney can attack the testimony of a firearms expert who asserts that a bullet could have come from only one gun.
"The problem is that judges can't sort out the testimony for jurors to distinguish the reliable information from the bad," Siegel said. Judges "don't understand a thing about it," Siegel said. "That's the sad fact."
Nor do attorneys, he said, noting "100 years" of acceptance by courts of unscientific evidence.
"That's why situations arise that cause innocent people to go to jail," Siegel said.
He would like to see identification experts prohibited from making statements on behalf of a specific individual. "If it were up to me, nobody should be going to court anyway. We make errors. The individuality of evidence ... that hasn't been proven, isn't provable and therefore shouldn't be asserted," Siegel said.
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"They're leaning toward what the science can't do. In those instances it's not the science that's the problem. It's the expert witnesses going beyond expertise and exaggerating what science can do."
—Judy Hynes, Forensic technical manager
Phong Dang continued from page 2

Mathematics professor John Martin teaches a class by phone to prisoners when he began studying at Seton Hall University in 1979. This year marks 25 years and he's had hundreds of students since then. He remembers Dang because his Franklin Series was his first calculus class when he began studying at San Francisco City College, CA. But unlike other students who tried to convince him to get a math degree, Martin said Dang was very quiet in class, not answering, or asking questions, he said. And unlike other students who attended office hours hoping to pry answers from their professors, Dang came to Martin to have words clarified. It was unusual, Martin said, because he wanted to do the work himself.

"He was a very quiet student," he said. "That I could tell as soon as I saw the work that he understood the mathematics." Dang finished second in Martin's class, which the professor said is a remarkable achievement for someone with a language barrier. Martin even tried to convince him to get a mathematics degree. He was "hardworking, dependable, all those things faculty love in students," he said.

In 2008, Dang, was admitted to University of California, Santa Barbara and UC Santa Barbara but chose Cal Poly for its finance major, small classes and the friendly southern California vibe. He plans to head to the East Coast to get his master's and then he wants to work for a financial firm. While he currently plans to return to work in Vietnam in about 10 years, he said his family thinks he'll stay here.

"Nothing is perfect, 100 percent sure. I think I will go back, but not for sure," he said.

Bente Yannine Robledo-Espinoza, a 25-year-old women's rights activist for a Yoruba tribe in southwest Nigeria, thinks she has a good chance to ascend to the throne. The Yoruba women's rights activist for the Yoruba tribe, who is the spiritual leader of the people.

"I am the spiritual leader of the people." Ogunmeno immigrated to the United States in his 20s, earned a degree in political science and a law degree from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka in 1999. The next year, he started his current practice of criminal defense and personal injury law. He recently finished a book, "Silence is Power," about how critics can protect their communities.

"He returns to Nigeria on vacation nearly every year, where he has an adult son and ties to his hometown community. He plans to head to the East Coast to get his master's and then he wants to work for a financial firm. While he currently plans to return to work in Vietnam in about 10 years, he said his family thinks he'll stay here.

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2010 could see changes in immigration policy

Antonio Olivo

CHICAGO — Having waited patiently in the wings, immigration advocates are anxious to take President Barack Obama at his word when he said immigration reform would soon follow once health care was off the nation's agenda.

With several initiatives gaining up to par the issue before Congress in 2010, the advocates are all too aware they haven't had much cause for celebration in recent years. Their last big push in Washington, in 2007, failed to settle the status of the nation's estimated 11.9 million undocumented immigrants.

Deportations have continued, with nearly 370,000 immigrants detained during the fiscal year that ended in October. That's more than twice the number in 1999, according to a report last week by Transactional Records Clearing House at Syracuse University.

In Chicago, frustration has been heightened by tougher local enforcement measures, such as a new city ordinance that, starting Jan. 1, would allow police to impound the cars of unlicensed drivers. Many of them turn out to be undocumented immigrants.

On the street, the emotions behind the issue could be seen in the campaign on behalf of Rigo Padilla, who was threatened with deportation after his illegal status was discovered when he was arrested for a DUI.

"Padilla said he had been allowed to stay in the United States for one more year. Groups seeking more aggressive immigration law enforcement, meanwhile, see cases like Padilla's as reasons to crack down further on illegal immigrants. His illegal status was discovered when he was arrested for drunk driving and he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor DUI charge."

In hopes of finding a resolution, Congress is again talking about an immigration overhaul early next year. One House bill, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois, is expected to be introduced before Christmas, and another Senate bill is expected in January.

Following up on Obama's vow to address the issue when he met with activists at the White House earlier this year, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said last month the administration envisioned a "three-legged stool" that includes efficient legal immigration, and "a tough and fair" pathway to legalization that will require the undocumented to learn English and pay taxes, among other things.

Below, where the three legs currently stand:

ENFORCEMENT

In November, officials at Immigration and Customs Enforcement announced 111,000 "criminal aliens" were identified in jails and prisons under a Secure Communities initiative launched in October 2008 with local law enforcement agencies. Of that number, 11,000 were serving time for murder, rape and other serious crimes. The rest had been charged with less serious crimes, such as burglary or property theft.

In April, ICE announced a shift in focus to crack down more on employers that illegally hire undocumented immigrants, though records do not yet show that the new approach has resulted in more employer arrests. To FY09, 114 employers were arrested on criminal charges, compared with 133 in FY08 and 92 in FY07. Meanwhile, arrests of illegal workers at those jobs were down to 1,840 in FY09 from 6,152 the year before.

In July, 654 "workplace audits" checking for illegal hiring produced 14,000 suspected documents and $2.3 million in fines. In November, ICE announced 1,000 new workplace audits.

Earlier this year, the Obama administration rescinded a policy known as "no-match rule" introduced by the Bush administration.

The new-immplemented rule — the subject of a federal lawsuit in San Francisco — would have imposed fines on employers who did not quickly act on federal notices showing a worker's stated Social Security number did not match Social Security Administration records.

Approximately 170,000 businesses nationwide use the federal "E-verify" software program that is meant to determine whether new hires are providing legal documentation.
**Immigration**

Continued from page 11

Several times created in 2006, the software has become widely available, with 1,000 new subscribers per month since 2007, according to Homeland Security. Under a rule approved this year, federal contractors are required to use E-verify.

**PATHWAY TO LEGALIZATION**

There are an estimated 11.9 million people in the country illegally, according to a 2009 report by the Pew Hispanic Center. In the Midwest, of the 286,000 Mexican immigrants who've arrived since 2001, roughly 66 percent are illegal, according to a 2009 report by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. The economic recession has had an impact on immigration flows, leading to a 20 percent drop in annual remittances to Mexico earlier this year.

In a November 13 speech, Napolitano laid out a plan for legalization that would require illegal immigrants to register, pay fines and all taxes they owe, learn English and pass a criminal background check. Napolitano argued that bringing legal immigrants into the system would enhance national security and protect American workers against unfair competition from lower-paid illegal immigrants. Opponents dismiss legalization as a form of amnesty.

**LEGAL IMMIGRATION**

Delays for some forms of legal immigration can stretch to several years. This year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which processes citizenship applications and visas, successfully reduced months-long backlogs for FBI background checks and other red tape.

After a 69 percent increase in processing fees two years ago, naturalization applications dropped to about 733,000 in FY09, from about 1 million during the previous 12 months.

Officials are weighing whether to increase fees again in the face of declining revenues, prompting an outcry from immigrant advocates who argue that will keep more eligible people from becoming citizens.

In discussions over immigration reform, some have proposed an increase in foreign guest-worker visas, but unions and groups seeking to limit immigration in general are opposed, arguing those workers would take jobs away from Americans.

**PENDING LEGISLATION**

Gutierrez is expected to introduce a bill for comprehensive immigration reform in the next few weeks, kicking off another round of debate. The bill's "core principles" would include a pathway for legalization, aligning "future flows" of legal immigration with economic and labor market needs and making family unity a cornerstone of the nation's immigration system.

In July, U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler, D-N.C., and U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., re-introduced the DREAM Act, which seeks to reduce illegal immigration through increased border security and requiring employers to prove their workers are in the U.S. legally. The bill was defeated in 2007.

In April, U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., re-introduced the SAVE Act, which would grant conditional legal status to undocumented students who arrived to the U.S. younger than 16 and have been continuously in the country for six years. The legislation was first conceived in 2001, and has been repeatedly defeated.

Also in April, Durbin and U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, introduced legislation designed to curb abuse in the H-1B temporary visa program used by software companies and other high-tech employers to fill vacant positions. Among other things, the bill would require employers to prove they've sought American workers for those spots first.

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**WHAT'S YOUR BANK TELLER TELLING YOU? WE INVESTIGATE. muangdailywire@gmail.com**
"What are your goals for winter quarter?"

"To keep up my good grades and to continue to feed the homeless."
-Daniel Duffy, business administration senior

"Pass classes while still having a good time since it's my last year here."
-Lindsay Warneke, animal science senior

"I'll be starting my student teaching and hopefully gain more knowledge about teaching."
-Megan Claassen, education graduate student

"Pass and graduate: that's it, just get out."
-Jordan Yerkes, business administration senior

"Or living south L.A. into a better place for residents. It's for a studio project."
-Nari Eckert, city and regional planning senior

"Finish up last few classes and graduate. Can really see what I've done."
-Mahiya, junior, biology minor

"To get above a 3.5 GPA, I want to make the dean's list."
-Emily Harkins, business administration sophomore

"It's the first time I won't have scholarships, so I hope I can handle that without giving too many."
-Mercedes Nixson, biochemistry major

"To get good grades and do well in chemistry."
-Michael Hooyman, biology major

"Get a 4.0 and get a job to raise some money and learn a new magic trick."
-Matthew Gons, business administration senior

"Actually, I want to do another major and obviously go into law."
-Daniel Duffy, business administration senior

"Gotta try to do better than last quarter. I'll like to try and stay more focused."
-Matt Hemeon, history junior

"Avoid making the same mistakes."
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April 3

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WORD ON THE STREET

“What are your goals for winter quarter?”

“Just do as well as I can in all of my classes and secure work for the summer.”
-Sam Bowman, aerospace engineering junior

“Mainly I’d like to progress towards graduation. It’s just another quarter, nothing special.”
-William MacCabe, mathematics senior

“To do better in school and to get a job.”
-Kelsey Harris, social sciences sophomore

“To get classes; I have two units that I’m enrolled in now so I’m a little worried.”
-Ryan Hnarakis, computer engineering junior

“Ace organic chemistry and keep up my really good GPA and get more involved.”
-Samantha Johnson, biological sciences sophomore

Bored with facebook?
www.mustangdaily.net

“Cal Poly’s original news feed”
WORD ON THE STREET

“Right now I only have four units. I hope to get all of my classes and get all A’s.”
Lizzy Richert, biological sciences sophomore

“I want to be in an art show, snowboard, get straight As and hopefully pick up a computer science minor.”
Christina Taggart, art and design junior

“Study more; I need to make a better schedule.”
Hayden Bodily, aerospace engineering freshman

“Increase my GPA and stop procrastinating.”
Sagar Salvi, computer engineering senior

“Get through it and have a good time.”
Chris Lewis, general engineering junior

“Get good grades and enjoy myself and get more involved.”
Sara Noebel, liberal studies sophomore

“I always end up saying I’ll try to study more but it never happens. Hopefully the cold will make me want to more.”
Tommy Barnes, business administration senior

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Students blend musical styles with the release of first album

Leticia Rodriguez

Pacific City has run into its share of problems. From disagreements on the band's musical style to the departure of band members, the road has been bumpy. Now with the release of their first album on iTunes and online, the group of Cal Poly students is excited to finally share their love of music with fans.

The band first came together in lead vocalist and guitarist Carl Taylor's freshman year when he, trombone player Patrick Holder and a friend decided to put together a ska band. Within a year, they were ready to blend different styles of music to include reggae, and various Latin genres such as salsa. After the departure of other band members, Pacific City now includes Taylor, Holder, piano and keyboard player Jimmy Martin, bass player Ken Verbosky and vocalist and trumpet player Katie Greenstein.

Their unique blend of reggae, Latin and ska came about as a result of musical influences such as Pink Martini, Sublime and No Doubt. The different musical preferences of each band member also played a part. Martin said he prefers listening to jazz, samba and soul music and tries to blend his tastes with the band's to create their sound. Even though Martin prefers jazz music, to the blend Pacific City has created, he said he plays because he enjoys music.

"I come from a different background of music but the guys are fun to play with, and we played see Band, page 19"
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Gallery offers art opportunity on campus

Megan Hassler

Located next to the Robert E. Kennedy Library and Dexter Subs, the University Art Gallery is a convenient place to take a break. But despite the prominent location, “It is a very hard uphill battle to get students in here,” gallery coordinator Jeff Van Kleeck said.

Some students have no idea where the gallery is and some don’t even know there was an art gallery on campus. This is an issue Van Kleeck has been working on. By updating the Web site and interacting through social networks like Facebook and Twitter, Van Kleeck has tried to reach the Cal Poly community as well as San Luis Obispo residents.

Van Kleeck uses his budget to help create a nurturing environment for students by bringing artists and other creative professionals to campus.

He said one of the most important parts of art is realizing that mistakes can be made. Van Kleeck says he is one of those environments where mistakes can lead to great works of art.

The Web site offers information on the exhibitions (current and past), a calendar of the year’s shows, directions to the gallery and links to other recommended places to experience art. One part of the Web site being developed is a page where there will be interviews with the artists. There are also links to the new Facebook page and Twitter account. These are recent attempts to reach out and engage audiences.

Gallery employee and art and design junior Caitlin Beyer enjoys when people come in and engage in the art by asking questions. “If you have five minutes you can just walk through. You can walk around the gallery while you wait for your sandwich,” she said.

She added that coming into the art gallery is a good way to gain understanding of other disciplines.

“When you are a college student you are really focused on your own major. It’s nice to look around and enjoy it,” Beyer said. “You must see Gallery, page 21”

Pants Yell! gives a new definition to humanity

There is something inherently terrifying in being treated like a person — a real person. We all think it’s what we want when we are growing up and it’s something we think we are entitled to. But neuroticism and egocentric behavior aren’t the only reasons you should give this album a listen.

It’s also the perfect soundtrack to a date. This music would probably be a perfect accompaniment to an overcast and windy picnic at the park or, if you’re feeling adventurous, the beach.

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There is something inherently terrifying in being treated like a person — a real person. We all think it’s what we want when we are growing up and it’s something we think we are entitled to. But neuroticism and egocentric behavior aren’t the only reasons you should give this album a listen. This album’s single, “Cold Hands,” is reminiscent of every immature relationship we have been in.

With the same fuzzy music that you probably had your first kiss to, Andrew Churchman sings about a lot of things he wouldn’t do for love. Like me, he assumes that he is entitled to dignity and respect for his feelings. In reality, he really just doesn’t want to sacrifice personal comfort, complaining that “your cold hands make me nervous.”

But neuroticism and egocentric lyrics aren’t the only reasons you should give this album a listen. It’s also the perfect soundtrack to a date. This music would probably be a perfect accompaniment to an overcast and windy picnic at the park or, if you’re feeling adventurous, the beach.

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Band
continued from page 16

"Some fun shows, and I think some of the stuff we have is really good," Martin said. "I just like playing music."

The Latin influence to their music extends beyond the beats to the band's lyrics in head-bopping songs such as "Love Songs" and "Donde Estan, Yolanda?" a Pink Martini cover. Taylor, who writes most of the band's songs, said the incorporation of Spanish lyrics came from not only his notice of an untapped market, but also from him wanting to become more fluent.

"I'm nervous I might offend some Latin Americans by singing in Spanish and not speaking it fluently. I don't want to sing in Spanish as a gimmick or anything; I just want to pay some tribute to the music we play," Taylor said. "There's so many people that speak Spanish around here, but there's not much music out there that reflects that, it seems."

The band spent the last 11 months recording "Leading Line" in Taylor's house and garage. As renting a recording studio is so expensive, the band bought recording equipment and built a sound booth out of fiberglass boards. Holder said even though the band would sometimes spend over 40 hours a week recording and mixing, the process was worth it because it was able to have more control over its sound.

"There was a lot of trial and error involved because we didn't have anybody there to hold our hands, but we were able to spend as much time as we wanted to really perfecting our sound and getting it right," Holder said. "It was sink or swim, and it was all up to us."

With the release of their album, the band hopes to perform in the area and is already in the process of booking shows. Holder hopes that their professional-sounding album and blend of musical genres will set them apart from other bands and give them the edge to perform at higher profile shows.

"We bring something new to the table nobody else has: our unique style, the way we incorporate different genres together and blend different kinds of music," Holder said. "I think it's unlike anything most people have ever heard before."
Female sommeliers becoming more commonplace

Jessica Yadegaran
USDARTS/LAHUO

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. —
Whoever said the life of a sommelier is glamorous probably had a cocktail lounge job.

Just ask Haley Guild Moore.
The petite sommelier for San Francisco's upscale Spruce restaurant looks like a polished Drew Barrymore as she works the floor with a warm smile. But, like all the restaurant jobs Guild Moore has had, this one, long associated with stuffy men, is surprisingly physical.

You need only look at the 27-year-old's orthopedic-like black clogs to know stilettos wouldn't work in wine service.

"I like being active, and proving that I have the ability to work as hard as the men in my field do," says Guild Moore.

Guild Moore, whose resume reads like a Bay Area foodie's paradise — A Cote, Vi De Vi and Bazar — is one of eight sommeliers in the Bacchus Management Group, whose California restaurants also include Pizza Antica in San Jose and Lafayette and The Village Pub in Woodside.

Six of those eight are female.

Women have shunned every glass ceiling in the wine world, from managing vineyards to crafting cult wines. But perhaps the most visible change is to hire good people regardless of gender. But he believes the wine world is more commonplace through a variety of groups, including the highly competitive, London-based Court of Master Sommeliers, which offers four levels of certification.

Just 5 percent pass the final exam, which centers the title of Master Sommelier. Many candidates stop at the third level, Advanced Sommelier, which gives them more than enough of the knowledge — from grapes and regions to vinicultural techniques, food pairings and wine service — needed to do their jobs.

Rachael Lowe, a 30-year-old sommelier at Napa's Bouchon, earned the highest score among the 11 sommeliers who passed the Advanced Sommelier exam in Las Vegas last week.

"I didn't get into wine thinking, 'I'm a woman. I want to show them.'" Lowe says. "It's nice to be a woman and receive this honor, but that's not what it's about for me. Wine is where my heart is."

Still, women are in the minority when it comes to Master Sommeliers. Only 14 out of the 103 Master Sommeliers in North America are female, although that's changing.

The number of female applicants who've sat for the Advanced exam has quadrupled in the past five years. And we shouldn't be surprised.

Many in the wine world say the rise of female sommeliers is a testament to the growing impact women are having across the wine world as riders.

"It's a proven fact that women have better palates than men," says Andrew Green, wine director for the Bacchus group. "They can be more sensitive to aromas and flavors."

Green's motto is to hire good people regardless of gender.

"I think women are more uncultured," she explains. "This business is for people who want to take care of others. It's like having a dinner party at my house every night and not having to clean up."

Working the dining room five nights a week is a major boon when she comes to the latter portion of the Master exam. Then, there's studying the books, trade publications and wine lists.

"I went through the boom and bust and realized life is too short," she says. "You've got to enjoy what you do." She passed the level two exam in 2003 and studies two hours a day for the advanced exam, which she will take in October. She loves wine, she says, because the learning never stops. And she believes women tend to be more discerning than men, which might encourage people to ask questions, she says.

"It's kind of a novelty," says Tran, who holds quarterly wine dinners at local restaurants to keep her sommelier skills sharp. "I'm female. I'm Asian. It becomes a conversation starter."

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The gallery is always open to the public and free.

"I think it is important to have (the gallery). Not just for art students but for everyone because there aren't a lot of art museums in San Luis Obispo," Beyer said.

Though there are other art venues in San Luis Obispo, they are not all aimed to engage students. One of the criteria in choosing an artist for an exhibit at the University Art Gallery is seeing if they could come and speak either for the opening or closing of the exhibit. There are many steps that must be taken when planning for an event in gallery.

Van Kleeck said he tries to get the best shows to the gallery and to use the budget effectively. The funding for the gallery is provided by College of Liberal Arts and the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fees. Van Kleeck said the gallery used to get money from Cal Poly Arts but due to budget cuts they were no longer able to help.

Even with budget issues the gallery is still open. It showed "Elemental Thailand Artists Exchange" from Nov. 12 to Dec. 5. It was part of an exchange of six Thai artists and five Californian artists. Cal Poly hosted three artists, including associate professor Prasert Pichayasoonthorn, a mixed media and installation artist; associate professor and painter Nawin Biadklang; and lecturer Prapakorn Sukonthamanee, a textile and fabric artist.

Next quarter the Thailand Artist Exchange will be replaced with another type of art. The next exhibit will be the Type Directors Club featuring national award winning graphic design. Joshua Chen of Chen Design Associates was mentioned for excellence in typography for three projects by the club. He will be speaking at the exhibit opening on Jan. 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the University Art Gallery.

Every spring students' work is featured in the gallery with the department of art and design Annual Juried Student Exhibition, which is evaluated by judges from outside of Cal Poly. This features student submissions from art classes in the last year in photography, graphic design, studio art and digital media. This show runs from April 16 to May 7. There is also the Senior Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition from May 14 to 28.

"I think that anyone when pressed can have creativity," Van Kleeck said.

The gallery is open to the public for free Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is in Dexter Building, room 171.

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Discount retailers and electronic readers worry some in the book world

Zac Gall

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In an often dubbed internally as “Project Impact,” Wal-Mart has redesigned its store layouts in order to make all departments visible from most perspectives.

Still, the books section at the Wal-Mart store in Roeland Park, Mo., is tucked away in a corner, next to the public restrooms, and it’s possible to wonder whether there’s some subliminal meaning in that location.

When you get there you’ll find several shelves stuffed with hand-me-down novels, their companion cookbooks, mainstream Westerns, romances, and movie tie-ins to Cormac McCarthy’s “The Road” and J.D. Salinger’s “Catcher in the Rye.”

In store, Wal-Mart offers discounts of 30 percent on newly released hardcover titles like Stephen King’s “Under the Dome” or John Grisham’s “Fool County.” Online, however, Wal-Mart has slashed prices on select releases by up to 69 percent, part of a pricing war among large retailers that heated up earlier this year and raised a pertinent question: What is the value of a book?

In addition to the retail battle of the books, as the printed word moves inevitably toward an electronic future, accessibility increases while costs decrease. Amazon.com can deliver Hilary Mantel’s huge Booker Prize-winning novel, “Wolf Hall,” for $25 retail — in 60 seconds, to your Kindle for $9.99. The difference between more than 300,000 titles and 1 of the 112 current New York Times Best-Sellers.

Meanwhile, readership has declined despite the increase in convenience. In 2007, the New York Times reported that 27 percent of American adults had not read a book the previous year. People still seek stories as entertainment in their daily lives, but the predominance of movies, viral videos and television indicates a shift in our cultural focus. As evidenced by the incessant stream of movie quotes in our student’s vocabulary, books seem to have seen the same film (or, “Cold Mountain” in 2001) than you are to have read the same book as someone else (up, the 1997 National Book Award winner, “Cold Mountain”).

“Good writers had a following that was more substantial than it is today,” the novelist Philip Roth lamented recently in an interview with the BBC. “The attention of readers has shifted away. They’ve been overcome by so many other distractions, and the habit of concentrating I think has been badly damaged by the nature of the cultural stimuli. So it feels to me very much like a dying moment for literary culture in my own country. "You can’t feel the book’s thick pages. You can’t trace your fingers across the perforated facsimiles of Nabokov’s handwritten note cards, which comprise the ‘Speak’ pages of his ‘Laughter in the Dark.’”

While appreciating its image on a screen, you can’t feel its heft in your hand.

And what a Nook or a Kindle might hold 1.500 of your favorite books, it can never hold the same significance as the stuffed shelves of a personal library. Only a finished, tangible book transmits that initial consumer’s exchange. And only in a library or a store dedicated to books — where employees know their trade and can lead you to a themed display filled with literary magazines and novels an online market cannot sustain — can you feel the value of a book. There remains an undeniable pleasure in touching a physical object, flipping through illustrated books and novels an online market cannot sustain — can you feel the value of a book. There remains an undeniable pleasure in touching a physical object, flipping through illustrated books and magazines, going to a bookstore, and having a meaningful exchange with the bookseller.

The novel is such a flexible form,” said Auster. “It’s not like a sunset — it’s not fixed. You can do anything you want with it. All bets are off. There are no rules, and that’s why I think the novel is constantly reinventing itself.”

A novel can offer an experience that movies and television never could — an act of browsing in bookstores and libraries has never left. Amazon.com allows book buyers to scan pages of many books, but even then you can’t appreciate the quality of Chip Kidd’s design for Vladimir Nabokov’s newly published posthumous novel, "The Original of Laura." You can’t feel the book’s thick pages. You can’t trace your fingers across the perforated facsimiles of Nabokov’s handwritten note cards, which comprise the ‘Speak’ pages of his ‘Laughter in the Dark.’"
Despite two foreign wars, America can move out of turmoil

Aaron Berk
The Libertarian Torch

I don't think we should be Afghanistan. There. I said it.

Does that immediately flag me as being un-American and/or crazy, or is there a possibility I really don't want what's best for our country and I'm also rational in my thought process of what the best course of action is? Let me try to explain my point of view and if at the end you disagree, then you're more than welcome to hold up this article and point out to all your friends who I'm wrong. What I really like, though if you disagree, is for you to tell me why I'm wrong. And so the case you agree, what are you going to do about it?

We've been in Afghanistan since Oct. 7, 2001, it's been more than eight years. To put that into perspective, US involvement in World War II and official American involvement in the Vietnam War lasted nearly five years. The stated goal when the US went into Afghanistan was to subdue the Taliban. There has been much success over the past eight years in doing so. I don't to debate and to deal with the Taliban who have been lost in Afghanistan. There is the United States. American aggression breeds aggression. I wonder for every in Afghanistan civilians is as substantial.

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The Bitcoin is called the "graveyard of empires." For a reason. History has some serious red flags for our current involvement in Afghanistan. It was the United States in 1979 that started funding the Mujahedeen to help topple the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was in Afghanistan for nine years. How long will we stay in Afghanistan, putting soldiers in harm's way and depleting our treasury? Al-Qaeda is striking us financially and the war is costing a pretty penny. The longer we continue to stay, the more it will cost us and the more it will erode our power and standard of living.

Are you look at how empires fall, you will see that we are headed down that path. We are not invincible and Al-Qaeda, despite their small size, is having a big impact on us. If you consider how much money they have spent fighting us to the amount we have spent, it's pennies on the dollar. Even though Afghanistan is a very poor country, they are still managing to drain our economy of billions of dollars.

I do not suggest that the United States can't afford to fight wars, but rather that we must pick and choose wisely what is worth fighting for Afghanistan is more of a preventative war than anything else. It is in many ways an offensive war rather than a defensive one. I am all for finding Osama bin Laden and people that played a role in 9/11, but surely when we have more than 38,000 troops there, our mission has become something much bigger than that.

I support the American troops and wish the best for them. The best thing for both the safety of our troops and the health of our country is one in the same, and that is a full withdrawal from Afghanistan. It's time we really brought the troops home.

A. Berk is a computer engineering major at Mustang Daily political editor.

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San Francisco Giants in search of some heavy hitters

San Francisco Giants third-baseman Pablo Sandoval was second in the last season.

Ilie second-year player also tallied 25 home runs and 90 RBIs for the Giants.

When they didn't? Try 12-49.

Sabean is no closer to building a respectable lineup. When the Giants scored at least three runs, they were 76-25, the best SS-win year, snapping a streak of four losing seasons, but 'nobody felt good about depriving that talented staff a shot at the playoffs.

But there's no windfall to spend without a serious payroll spike, which isn't in the plans. Lincecum is expected to receive a record-setting raise in salary arbitration, left-hander Jonathan Sanchez and closer Brian Wilson are due raises, too. Sabean already has said the Giants won't have the money to pursue outfielder Jason Bay and Matt Holliday, the top two offensive free agents on the market.

The Giants will go shopping on the second tier. Along with Nick Johnson, that marker includes first baseman Adam LaRoche, left-hander Madison Bumgarner, catcher Victor Martinez, catcher Yorvit Torrealba and Brad Penny.

The Giants already made perhaps their most important decision this winter, determining that prospect Buster Posey isn't ready to be an everyday catcher in the big leagues. Ivan Rodriguez, Yorvit Torrealba and Brad Ausmus have been linked to the Giants, but players such as Miguel Olivo, Rod Barajas and Jason Kendall might be more likely targets.

Ideally, the Giants also would sign a No. 5 starter so their other top prospects, Bumgarner, can begin the season at Triple-A Fresno.

Regardless, it doesn't appear the Giants will give up any prime assets for a player getting close to free agency, and the Marlins are asking for players like left-hander Madison Bumgarner. Expiring veterans such as Randy Wolf, Yordy Sanchez and closer Brian Wilson are off the books, and the Giants will save a chunk by letting Bengie Molina, their ill-fitting cleanup hitter, the past two seasons, sign with another club.

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Ideally, the Giants also would sign a No. 5 starter so their other top prospects, Bumgarner, can begin the season at Triple-A Fresno. Brad Peacock rejected a one-year offer, and if he doesn't circle back, Sabean will look to sign another starter to an affordable one-year deal.

If the market leaves him with few choices, Sabean said he would look to re-sign Bob Howry or another veteran reliever to fortify the staff. That was afforded depth to trade for an arm for a bat.

Neukom's timetable calls for the team to compete in 2010. But beyond that, he still has a lot to improve.

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Moments in a quarter of Mustang athletics

Brian De Los Santos

This past quarter featured many memories that Mustang fans will remember. From football, soccer, volleyball, cross country and a little bit of basketball, many Cal Poly athletes have made plays that fans will remember for decades.

On the gridiron, after a crushing loss to FCS powerhouse Montana, the Mustangs returned home to take on Southern Utah. The game turned into a nail biter. After the Thunderbirds scored what should have been a game-winning touchdown with nine seconds left in the game, Southern Utah failed to convert the ensuing two-point attempt, giving the Mustangs a 24-23 victory.

On the soccer field, the Cal Poly men's soccer team engaged in its annual back-yard brawl with rival UC Santa Barbara. In front of 9,024 fans, the Mustangs and Gauchos battled for Central Coast supremacy. The game finished in a 0-0 draw in double overtime.

Women's soccer played its way into the Big West Championship game, losing to familiar foe UC Santa Barbara. In overtime, the game ended in a 1-1 draw. Senior Hailey Fithian was the lone senior honored at senior night. Her and her teammates ended their season with a sweep against the Matadors.

Cross country ran their way into national spotlight and an early season of basketball has featured some exciting home games. Overall, there are many memories to take from the fall sports.

After making it to the Big West Conference title game, Cal Poly fell to Cal State Northridge in its season finale. Despite trailing Seattle in the first half, the Mustangs had their first win of the season.

In their annual contest against UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly tied the Gauchos 0-0 in double overtime. The Mustangs finished (8-9-2, 6-3-1).

Senior Hailey Fithian and her teammates recorded a sweep against Cal State Northridge in their season finale.

After home wins against Southern Utah and Dixie State, the Mustangs lost four straight, finishing their season 4-7.

After making it to the Big West Conference title game, Cal Poly fell to familiar foe UC Santa Barbara on penalty kicks.

In their annual contest against UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly tied the Gauchos 0-0 in double overtime. The Mustangs finished (8-9-2, 6-3-1).
Raiders' Gradkowski hails from a quarterback haven

Immediately after being upgraded to the starting role, Raiders quarterback Bruce Gradkowski led his team to upset victories against AFC North powerhouses Pittsburgh Steelers and Cincinnati Bengals.

Paul Gutierrez
STAFF WRITER


Bruce Gradkowski. Um, Bruce Gradkowski? No disrespect intended. In fact, it's just the opposite for the Raiders' journeyman quarterback.

Because if San Pedro de Macorís in the Dominican Republic is the cradle of major league baseball shortstops, then surely western Pennsylvania is the womb of Hall of Fame NFL quarterbacks.

Gradkowski lacks the credentials of his area under-center brethren. He has no delusions of greatness, nor does he insist on being mentioned in the same breath as the aforementioned six-pack of Canton-enshrined signal callers. Rather, and refreshingly so, he's just a guy trying to get the most out of what he's got. A guy whose blue-collar mentality, lunchbox approach to the game and working-class ideals mirror those of his Steel City upbringing.

"Yeah, growing up, Dan Marino was my idol," Gradkowski said, reflecting upon Terrible Towels and family pilgrimages to Three Rivers Stadium. "I wanted to play quarterback just because he played quarterback, not just because he played quarterback, just because he played quarterback."

"It's neat to go home because they always show you love. Such a huge family base back home in Pittsburgh, that's where all the love comes from."

More love was shown this trip when Gradkowski took some teammates to his parents' house for a pasta dinner prepared by his mother. A year ago, though, Gradkowski's homecoming was anything but festive occasion on the field. The Steelers saw to it, in a brutal no-doubt-about-it way.

Gradkowski, recently signed by Cleveland, started the regular-season finale at Heinz Field. He limped away with a quarterback rating of 1.0 after completing just 5 of 16 passes for a paltry 18 yards with two interceptions. He was sacked three times in the Browns' 31-0 loss.

And as a rookie with Tampa Bay in 2006, Gradkowski's start at Pittsburgh was not much better. His cumulative NFL passer rating in his hometown is 20.3, and he has been beaten by a combined 51-3.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, though, is not putting much stock in the beating his eventual Super Bowl champions put on Gradkowski last season.

"It was such a different circumstance," Tomlin said, referring to Gradkowski not being all that familiar with the Cleveland system.

"When I watch him on tape, I see a guy that's got good accuracy and pretty good mobility, can release the ball from a variety of body positions and locations. It seems like he's been a sparkplug for that offensive unit."

Gradkowski, whose father is a longtime employee on the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's business side, starred at Seton-La Salle High School but received only one Division I scholarship offer — from Toledo.

No, he won't be confused with the likes of Marino, Montana or even adopted Steel City hero Roethlisberger. But that's not the end game for him, either.

"I'm blessed with this opportunity to be playing this game," Gradkowski said. "You got to have fun with it."

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Will Donaghy's book comes back to bite Stern

If David Stern doesn't watch himself, he's going to have his very own Jose Canseco on his hands, and on his record.

Stop me if you've heard this one before, but there's this book out, see, by a former employee of a major sports league who admits to engaging in all sorts of illegal conduct that compromised the very integrity of the game.

And the implication is that the problem isn't being fully addressed, and that it could take the entire league down with it.

When we read this one in 2005, it was called "Juiced," and written by Canseco, a guy as easy to dismiss as his allegations were to discredit.

At the time, the commissioner of baseball, Bud Selig, pooh-poohed the book and ridiculed its writer.

Whether those people include David Stern remains to be seen.

Selig, of course, has yet to acknowledge that despite being a cheat and a publicity hound of the lowest order, Canseco also happened to be right.

"A rogue, isolated criminal," he said by way of dismissing Donaghy and his allegations when they surfaced as part of an FBI investigation in 2007.

And he may be. But when you consider how easy it would be for a referee to manipulate the scores, if not the results, of NBA games simply by sending one team to the line more than another, Donaghy and his contentions aren't so easily dismissed.

Stern and the league dismiss them the same way Triumph sees Donaghy, page 31
Mustang profile: Senior guard Lorenzo Keeler

Nikol Schiller

As one of three seniors on this year's men's basketball team, guard Lorenzo Keeler knows what it means to work your way to the top.

He learned the meaning of hard work and dedication growing up in a single-parent household in Escondido, Calif. The inspiration his mother, Josie Keeler, gives him is enough to make him want to repay her for her sacrifices.

Keeler remembers his mom waking up early and making breakfast and dinner in the morning since she knew she wouldn't be home to cook for the boys in the evening. She would constantly encourage him to follow his dreams of making it big with basketball and told him not to let anyone tell him differently.

"To me that was really special," he said. "Obviously I can't repay her for everything."

Despite working three jobs to support her four young boys, Ms. Keeler took the time to make sure that her sons stayed in line even while she was at work. Her house served as the neighborhood basketball court where Keeler and his brothers' friends play basketball after school.

As the second oldest of his brothers, Keeler always felt like he had to keep with his older brother, Josie Keeler said. Josie Keeler remembered how the other older kids would challenge Keeler to a round of basketball because he was so small and gifted.

"He was always very competitive. He always had a love for the game early on," Josie Keeler said.

Keeler eventually wants to be able to provide for his mom so she doesn't have to work as much.

"That's one thing (my family and I) joke about now," Keeler said. "My little nephew says, 'You need to hurry up and make money so Nana doesn't have to work so hard!'

Even today, though his mom can't make it to his games, his mom encourages Keeler over the phone. He said his mom gets on his case after he doesn't perform to his fullest in a game.

"I'm gonna push him to do what he needs to do. I know that when I do that, it shows in the next game," Josie Keeler said.

Josie Keeler said she's unable to see Keeler, page 31

Senior guard Lorenzo Keeler led the Mustangs in scoring last year, averaging 12.7 points per game.

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Keeler continued from page 29

take credit for all of Keeler’s accomplish­ments. His talent combined with his committed coaches throughout grade school and high school paved the way for Keeler’s success in college, she said.

Once he graduates, Keeler plans to play ball overseas. He said he wants to wait until after Cal Poly’s basketball season and after he has earned a degree to consider a professional career. His mother always told Keeler that his education came first and that basketball is a tool to completing his education.

“I’ve already proud of him that he’s gotten this far and that he’s going to graduate,” Josie Keeler said.

Concentrating on his last season at Cal Poly, Keeler recognizes that this year’s young team has its work cut out for it. With new teammates and a new coach, he said that as the season progresses, the team will learn how to play well together.

Keeler is looking forward to the day he can repay his mother for providing for him by telling her to take some time off of work and flying her to one of his games overseas.

“Hey’s always looking out for me. It just touches my heart. I work hard right now with what I do, and he knows that,” Josie Keeler said.

Donaghy continued from page 28

Books, the original publisher of the book originally titled “Blow­ing the Whistle,” pulled the plug on the deal after what Donaghy believes was legal pressure from the league.

“It was explained to me that pulled out because the NBA threatened a lawsuit,” Donaghy said, a charge the NBA has denied.

Officially, Triumph says the book was killed because of “liability concerns.”

Yet, those concerns were not shared by Shawna Vercher, the CEO of the VTi-Group, the small Florida publishing house that picked it up and published it under the new title, “Personal Foul,” last week.

“We thoroughly vetted the book and we’re confident everything in it is true,” she said.

Monday, “Personal Foul” sat at No. 25 in the Amazon.com rankings, a spot an editor not involved in the project called “huge.”

“Sooner or later, the league is going to have to have some kind of reaction to this,” the editor said.

Merely a truth-teller.

As Selig learned and Stern may be about to, you don’t need an angel to expose the dirty underside of a sports league.

Merely a truth-teller.
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DIDN'T GET LUCKY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Get LUCKY Now!

Mens 181, Womens Lil’ Maggie, Mens Vintage Straight, Womens Sweet N Low, Womens Riley