Poly students take marine robots on Arctic expedition

Jessica Barba

Two Cal Poly professors and two alumni used marine robots to study underwater Arctic life on an expedition to Norway last month.

Cal Poly biological sciences professor Mark Moline and computer engineering assistant professor Chris Clark said there is almost no knowledge of what is happening in the Arctic ecosystems during the winter due to polar night. Robot participation was necessary to reach areas that had never before been discovered.

During the two-week expedition, Moline, Clark and computer engineering alumni Scott Layton and Robbe Plankenhorn lived in total darkness in an old coal mining settlement turned research station.

"This was the first time we really had to deal with harsh conditions," Clark said. "There were extreme conditions like the cold, dark and polar bears. You always had to go with someone with a rifle.

The expedition was first conceived of when it was commissioned as part of the NORS program titled "Technology Development for Marine Monitoring and Ocean Observation." Moline started the program by writing a grant to the Norwegian Ministry of Higher Education.

"I thought what students were lacking was a perspective and hands-on experience in other disciplines," he said. "In this case, I thought biology students needed more background and experience in engineering to better be able to sample and investigate the oceans and particularly the Arctic undergoing climate changes.

Moline and Clark carefully selected the students based on their experience with the robots and put them through a one-week training course before they moved into the research station. The students' participation in the expedition widened their perspectives on the opportunities available in the technical aspect of research.

Morgan Students take marine robots on Arctic expedition

SWEet victory for women engineers

Megan Hassler

Five women engineering students were honored for excellence in leadership, work experience and grade point average at the 34th annual Evening with the Industry gala last Thursday at the San Luis Obispo Embassy Suites. The event was put on by the Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

At the event, the winners of the engineering and technology award were announced, $27,500 worth of scholarships were awarded, the SWE president was named an emerging leader, and Lee McFarland, a lecturer in mechanical engineering, was named "Most Supportive Professor." The women engineers recognized were five out of 18 nominated by their department. Nominees were evaluated on faculty recommendations, demonstrated leadership, work experience and grade point average. All of the winners were also involved in multiple extracurricular activities.

My favorite part is the outreach. I kind of get to give back to the next generation," Daw said. "I like to feel like I might be paving the way for them to become engineers.

In addition to recognizing these students for their achievements, scholarships were given out at the event. Students apply for these scholarships ahead of time. Some of the winners are through the college, while others are from outside companies. A total of 35 scholarships were given out and the awards ranged from $500 to $1,500.

Another yearly award at the banquet is to choose the "Most Supportive Professor" from within all engineering departments.
Robots
continued from page 1
"As computer engineers, we tend to focus on programming, but the logistics becomes a huge part of testing. Getting it there and getting it working," Liddicoat said.

"Some of the tools the students helped operate were Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and an ocean bottom crawler, Moline, who first began working with underwa­ter robots in 1996 at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and did his post-doctoral thesis on Antar­ctica, said he saw this expedition as the perfect opportunity to further his re­ search and learn about how life works in total darkness.

"Personally, I have conducted a num­ber of underwater missions with my autonomous underwater vehicle. Specifically, we are looking at the dis­tributions of small organisms in the water, and how they move and inter­act with each other," Moline said. "We are trying to piece together the water food web, and these efforts help with that!"

Clark, who works in conjunc­tion with two Norwegian biologists, was the only engineer project instal­ler to participate in the endeavor. He began working underwater robotics at Stanford in 2004 while earning his Ph.D.

"We experimented so they could. We went into a place too dangerous for the divers and got to sample arc­tic algae that grows only in the Arctic," Clark said. "It was cool to pick those depths. Very little is known and very little studies have been done on the polar night, and we wanted to look at the activity of life."

Plankenhoorn said to retrieve the algae divers would have need­ed to perform a four-hour dive in ice-cold water, so they decided to use an ROV to get the sample. "We were there in support. They wanted to use the ROV, but we didn't have the arm and Clark had to ship one out there and we had to make it happen," he said.

In addition to providing sup­port for the backbone by manag­ing the equipment, the engineers also documented their trips. The team blogged about their research and posted videos and photos of their findings.

"This was one additional means to touch the outside world and share our experiences," Moline said. "We think we are doing something special here, not only in terms of the science, but with the educational approach."

"Autonomous Undersea Vehicle Applications Center, a leading underwater robot research or­ganization, heard about the blog and linked to it on their Web site. Clark said he hoped that the blog could help the public learn more about their research and generate funding for future expeditions.

"The expedition to Ny-Ales­und, Svalbard in Norway's Arctic region was funded by the Nor­wegian Government, National Geographic and the United States National Science Foundation."

Clark said he hoped the expe­dition could contribute more in­formation and further devices on the Arctic ecosystem.
Government report shows health costs still soaring at record pace

Noam N. Levey
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — In a stark reminder of growing costs, the government estimated Thursday that health care consumed a record 17.3 percent of all spending in the U.S. economy last year — roughly $2.5 trillion.

This was the single largest one-year jump in health care spending as a share of the nation's gross domestic product since the government started keeping such records a half century ago.

And as soon as next year, more than half the nation's total health care tab may fall to the government for the first time, according to an annual report by independent agencies at the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS.

The rise in current costs, driven in part by surging spending in the government Medicare and Medicaid programs and the bleak projections for the future, did not take into account changes that may come if Democrats succeed in reviving their health overhaul legislation.

The report, while issued by a nonpartisan accounting agency, appears likely to fuel further debate about the health bills still batted around Washington.

In the absence of change, Wednesday's report raises a grim prospect for the country — a health care system consuming an ever greater and potentially unsustainable share of the economy even in a private coverage age.

Last year, CMS estimated that government spending on health care would rise at a 5 percent pace until 2016, compared to 2011 or 2012 in the current recession.

"The health system is hurting, and we are seeing that in these numbers," said Karen Davis, president of the Commonwealth Fund, a watchdog agency on health policy.

The report also points out the financial cost of the so-called Great Recession and the growing pressure it is putting on state and local governments.

Federal and state spending on Medicaid, the nation's primary health insurance program for low-income Americans, jumped nearly 10 percent in 2009, according to a separate report. Medicaid spending, meanwhile, shot up just over 8 percent.

Obama and many health-care experts have argued that reshaping the health-care system would ultimately make it more efficient, even if overall health spending continues to increase — a claim Republicans dispute.

Fueled by new technology, an aging population, rising incomes and other changes, spending on medical care has been consuming a larger and larger share of the nation's economy for years, jumping from about 3 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in 1960 to near 14 percent in 2004.

But the recession that began in 2007 accelerated that trend as the broader economy contracted while health care spending continued to increase, according to CMS estimates and economists.

Even now, with the economy slowly recovering, the government expects that the growth of health-care spending will outpace the expansion of the overall economy. By 2020, one of every five dollars spent in America is expected to go to pay for health care.

Some economists believe that this is not necessarily a problem, as the health-care industry can provide good jobs and improve both health and productivity.

But there is growing concern that as much as a third of the medical care delivered in the U.S. does not help patients.

"Are we getting value for dollar? That is the question," said Len Nichols, who directs the Health Policy Program at the center New America Foundation.

"If you believe that so much medical care is ineffective, then, do you think we are spending too much?" On the other end of the political spectrum, Stuart Butler, vice president for domestic and economic policy at the conservative Heritage Foundation, argues that the health-care system needs the more aggressive action to curb spending.

"The only way to do this is simply spend less," Butler said, warning that the health bills being pushed on Capitol Hill do the opposite.

CMS officials noted that the health-care spending has been increasing even as the number of Americans without health insurance is growing, another sign of problems with the system.

"With higher unemployment, people lose their jobs (and many of them lose their health-care coverage in the process. And under current law, they don't have much to fall back on," said Richard S. Foster, the chief actuary.

Foster said the report by his office indicated that two of the major trends driving costs for a health-care overhaul — rising costs and shrinking numbers of people with health-care coverage — were essentially the same as they were when the health-care debate began last year.

"Nothing much has changed in that regard," he said.

Inefficiency is becoming a particular acute problem for state and federal governments, which the report shows are increasingly supporting the nation's health-care system.

Half a century ago, government accounted for just a quarter of all health-care spending. Now, as the cost of caring for elderly and poor Americans swells, government's share of the total bill is fast becoming greater than that of the private sector.

The trend accelerated in the recession, as Washington spent billions of dollars to help states prop up Medicaid programs being strained by growing ranks of the unemployed and uninsured.

The health-care legislation being debated on Capitol Hill could increase the government commitment to health-care further as it undertakes a broad overhaul boost to the Medicaid program and provides subsidies to low- and moderate-income Americans to help them buy private insurance.

But in a separate report a month ago, CMS actuaries estimated that the three-year health-care bill would boost total health-care spending by less than 1 percent over the next decade, in large part because the legislation includes initiatives to make Medicare more efficient.

Congress looks at foreign influence in U.S. elections

Sananda Sahoo
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — In the wake of the recent Supreme Court ruling that ended most restrictions on corporate funding in elections, a congressional panel was asked Wednesday to enact greater limits on the influence of foreign companies in U.S. elections.

At the hearing of a House of Representatives Independence subcommittee, experts also sought congressional intervention to restrict contributions from out-of-country corporations.

The 5-4 decision last month in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission has sparked debate about the prospect of a possible surge in corporate spending on election campaigns.

How to stop out-of-country owners who controls a multinational corporation — which now would be free to use corporate funds to influence U.S. elections — troubled some on the subcommittee.

"I don't know what owns what in this global economy," said Rep. Bill Delahunt, D-Mass. For instance, he asked, who are the shareholders of Exxon Mobil, which has operations across the planet?

The majority opinion by the Supreme Court is vague on foreign corporations. The opinion said that the court need not resolve that issue because the case "is not limited to corporations or associations that were created in foreign countries or funded predominately by foreign shareholders."

Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe said that the dissenters, led by Justice Stevens, went out of their way to treat the majority's explicit decision to leave the matter open as an "acknowledgement that Congress might be allowed to take measures aimed at preventing foreign individuals or associations from influencing our nation's political process."

Tribe urged the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to act immediately to guard against foreign influence.

An increase in spending by corporate entities in campaigns and in lobbying for various agendas over the years also fueled support for limiting the influence of foreign corporations.

"Since these corporations have been banned from contributing to candidates and restricted in their campaign spending, their political spending has generally taken the form of lobbying," said Monica Youn, the director of the campaign finance project at the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law.

For instance, she said, "the health-care industry has spent approximately $1 million per day to lobby Congress on health-care reform."

One way to tackle this issue could be requiring managers to get authorization from shareholders before making political expenditures with corporate treasury funds and to report such spending to shareholders, Youn said.

An existing statute prevents foreign corporations from influencing U.S. elections by donating to them but doesn't prohibit spending by domestic corporations that foreign nations own or control. An FEC regulation restricts the ability of a foreign national to participate in the "candidate taking process." of a domestic corporation with regard to its political spending.

These organizations that represent the domestic subsidiaries of foreign companies in the United States are worried that the defeat over what's deemed a foreign company might harm the investment climate in the country.

"We are troubled by the fact that U.S. operations of foreign companies might be mistrusted as foreign," said Nancy McLeroy, the president and CEO of the Organization for International Investment. The organization represents issues faced by the U.S. subsidiaries of firms that are headquartered abroad, including Nestle, Siemens and Unilever.

The domestic subsidiaries of such companies account for around 4.6 percent of U.S. private-sector employment, according to the organization.

If these U.S. operations are singled out as foreign, they could be at a competitive disadvantage in the United States or in general be mistrusted by foreign shareholders."
Defense firms stand to lose if NASA budget shrinks

W.J. Hemmigan
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Big defense firms are reeling from President Barack Obama's call to reshape NASA and scrap plans for sending humans back to the moon, an ambitious endeavor that would have meant billions of dollars in spending to develop new rockets and spacecraft.

The potentially seismic shift for the aerospace industry was announced Monday, the seventh anniversary of the loss of the space shuttle Columbia, and came as defense companies were bracing for a pullback in the Pentagon's spending on weapons.

But NASA's new direction could be a boon to private space entrepreneurs, who have thus far been funding their ventures mostly on their own dime. If the plan makes it through Congress — a "big if" at that — funding for spacecraft development could shift dramatically from entrenched defense firms to privately funded start-ups.

"Obviously, we're disappointed at the direction the administration seems to be taking," said Randy Belote, spokesman for Northrop Grumman Corp., which is currently working on the lunar lander for NASA's next moon mission. "If the budget goes through, this will be a whole different ballgame. And we're going to have to look at our options very closely before we go forward."

The shift may already be underway. This week, NASA awarded $50 million in research funds to five private companies to design prototypes for a vehicle that could carry crew to the International Space Station. They would replace the space shuttle, which is scheduled to stop operating this year.

"The president has asked NASA to partner with the aerospace industry in a fundamentally new way, making commercially provided services the primary mode of astronaut transportation to the International Space Station," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said as he unveiled the space agency's spending plan Monday.

The new direction would also bring an end to NASA's 5-year-old Constellation program to put astronauts back on the moon by 2020. Under the program, NASA is working on developing a new rocket, the Ares 1, a crew capsule and a lunar lander, similar to the Apollo program.

But canceling Constellation is not expected to be easy.

The government has already poured $9 billion into the program, which has created thousands of jobs in about 40 states — and that's not including the hundreds of small business suppliers across the country.

"When the president says that he's going to cancel Constellation, I can tell you that to muster the votes and to overcome that, it's going to be very, very difficult," said Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., whose state is expected to lose 7,000 jobs when the space shuttle program is mothballed.

Obama's plans for the space agency also call for restructuring the way big contracts are awarded. Typically, multimillion-dollar projects such as Constellation have been awarded to a major aerospace firm, which in turn doled out work to subcontractors.

"It looks like those days are history," said Edmund G. Meini, a Boeing Co. spokesman. "There's going to be a change in procurement. Change is always difficult. But if that's the way it is, then we'll find a way to adapt."

Boeing recently got $18 million in seed money to develop a new space crew transportation system. It received another $6.7 million for technology development for its joint rocket venture with Lockheed Martin Corp.

But the contracts are a far cry from the awards it got in the past. In 2007, Boeing won an $860 million contract to develop the avionics for the Ares I rocket. The contract, which has meant 400 jobs, is now in jeopardy under the new budget plan.

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Jim Tankersley  
JERSEY WASHINGTON D.C.:
WASHINGTON — The Obama administration gave a boost to the corn and coal industries on Wednesday, announcing a series of moves to accelerate biofuel use and deploy so-called “clean coal” technology on power plants.

Unveiling the actions in a meeting with energy-state governors at the White House, President Barack Obama said the steps would create jobs in rural areas, reduce foreign energy dependence and curb the emissions that scientists blame for global warming.

“It’s important for us to under­stand that in order for us to move forward with a robust energy pol­icy,” Obama said, “we’ve got to have not an either/or philosophy but a both/and philosophy — a philoso­phy that says traditional sources of energy are going to continue to be important for a while so we’ve got to just use technologies to make them cleaner and more efficient.”

Most notably, the Environmen­tal Protection Agency made final a regulation that would have minimized corn ethanol’s role because of concerns about the fuel’s overall pollution-fighting credentials.

The administration said the EPA rule alone would lead to a $41.5 billion reduction in oil im­ports and take the equivalent of 27 million vehicles off the road.

Administration officials also announced a revamped strategy to put the nation on track to meet the congressional mandate of 36 bil­lion gallons of biofuel by 2022, in hopes of fixing a government ef­fort that officials acknowledge has fallen short in its attempts to wean cars and trucks away from fossil fuels and move toward ethanol, biodiesel and other crop-based fu­els.

The nation currently produces about 12 billion gallons, mostly from corn ethanol, and the federal government projects the country will not meet the 2022 goal.

And Obama issued a presiden­tial memorandum to speed the development of technologies that capture and store the carbon-di­oxide emissions from coal plants, with a goal of bringing five to 10 commercial-scale projects online by 2016.

Many industry groups cheered the decisions, particularly corn-

State

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials in San Diego found more than $1 million worth of marijuana hidden in a shipment of bananas in the Mexico border.

Wednesday.

A drug-sniffing dog alerted offi­cers to the shipment Monday when a 40-year-old Mexican truck driver applied to cross into the United States at the Otay Mesa cargo facil­ity, the agency said in a statement.

When officers opened the boxes in the truck, they found 235 pack­ages of marijuana weighing nearly a ton hidden among bunches of ba­nanas, the statement said. Officers seized the marijuana, which is worth an estimated $1.17 million.

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — Stanford University garnered the largest total of private donations of any American college or university last year, for the fifth consecutive year, while charitable support for higher education dropped about 12 percent nationwide because of the recession, according to a new survey.

Stanford in 2009 took in a whop­ping $640.1 million in donations, down about 18 percent from the previous year but still big enough again to again beat Harvard Univer­sity, which received $618.6 million, the report by the Council for Aid to Education showed.

Los Angeles Times, page 6

see Biofuel, page 6

concert

National

LA ES VEGAS (MCT) — Two casino patrons were killed and nine injured Wednesday in the south­ern Nevada resort town of Laugh­lin when a driver smashed through the glass doors of the Edgewater Hotel & Casino and plowed into several banks of slot machines.

The 70-year-old male driver possibly suffered a “medical epi­sode” when he shot through a red light and raced toward the Edge­water valet area about 9:30 a.m., authorities said.

Joe Magliocchini, the casino’s chief operating officer, was told the driver’s speed topped 60 mph and that he made no obvious ef­fort to stop. Everything happened so quickly that some gamblers ini­tially thought the casino’s roof had caved in.

Alcohol was ruled out as a factor in the crash. Investigators are looking into whether or not the car had a malfunction.

MIAMI (MCT) — A Florida man was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty for mail-fraud conspiracy.

He made $717,000 from more than 5,300 eBay transactions, us­ing at least 260 different auction accounts, federal prosecutors said.

He never shipped a thing to thousands of winning bidders who had paid him.

International

BAHGDAD (MCT) — Hun­dreds of candidates accused of ties to the outlawed Baath Party will be allowed to participate in Iraq’s upcoming election after a deci­sion Wednesday by judges to defer hearing their appeals until after the poll.

The step may help ease political tensions in the run-up to the elec­tion, and closely matches a US. proposal pressed recently by Vice President Joe Biden.

The 300 or so candidates affect­ed could still be barred from taking their seats if they are elected to par­liament, potentially creating a fresh political crisis. But the ruling will avert the threat of a boycott of the polls by Iraq’s minority Sunnis.

The seven-judge panel respon­sible for hearing the appeals of those barred decided that it did not have time to investigate all the cases before the March 7 poll.

GUANTANAMO (MCT) — The Swiss government rebuffed Chinese protests Wednesday and agreed to give sanctuary to two brothers of the Muslim Uighur mi­nority who had paid him.

The announcement represented a breakthrough for Arkin Mahmut, 45, and his brother Bahtiar, 32, now held in a chain-link-fence enclosed compound, Camp Igama.

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WORD ON THE STREET

"Do you plan to watch the Super Bowl? Who are you rooting for?"

"I have to work so I won't be watching."
-Hyle West, kinesiology freshman

"Yes, I want the Saints to win because they went a long time this season undefeated. I'd rather the underdog win."
-Mike Trefler, journalism senior

"I'm watching with my buddies from the dorm. I want the Saints to win because their franchise deserves it."
-Taylor Steers, biological sciences freshman

"Yes, I'll watch at a party. I want the Colts to win because Peyton Manning is the man."
-Joe Newman, agricultural sciences senior

"Yes. I'll probably party hop. I want the Saints because I think it will be good for New Orleans' economy."
-Kaylee Tersini, agricultural communication senior

"Yes, I have to work at The Shack. I want the Saints because of Drew Brees he's an awesome quarterback and used to play for the Chargers."
-Stefanie White, business administration junior

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Biofuel
continued from page 5

ethanol boosters, who have lobbied heavily for an expanded corn role under the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard.

Under a draft of the regulation released last year, EPA scientists determined that corn ethanol produced too many greenhouse gas emissions to qualify as a renewable fuel, effectively limiting the fuel's role to a baseline level mandated by Congress.

The finding was controversial because it included a scientifically debated calculation of the "indirect" land-use effects of corn ethanol production — the idea that growing corn for fuel domestically could spur farmers overseas to cut down trees and plant crops such as soybeans.

EPA scientists revised their calculations for the final regulation to include new information on crop productivity and a more global view of indirect land use effects, and they concluded corn ethanol produced in the most energy-efficient manner would in fact meet the emissions standard, EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson said.

"We weren't trying to appease any particular industry or reach any particular outcome," she said, adding: "Based on what we know now, there is no basis to exclude these fuels."

Some environmental groups praised the EPA for continuing to factor indirect land-use into the calculation, despite pressure to exclude it.

Biofuel
continued from page 5

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Jim Puzzanghera and Jerry Hirsch

WASHINGTON — Congressional investigators are escalating their probe of Toyota Motor Corp. vehicles by examining whether sudden acceleration affects models that have not been recalled — and whether all Toyota vehicles should be modified.

Northrop Grumman executives and safety experts here have suggested that electronic controls that send commands to Toyota vehicles' throttle systems may be the culprit behind sudden acceleration problems. The issue has been a topic of investigation by Toyota engineers, government regulators and safety experts since last year.

So far, Toyota has recalled 1.4 million vehicles, including nearly 550,000 models in the U.S., based on owner complaints, internal investigations and warranty claims of sudden acceleration.

But the case for an electronic control system as the source of the problem has yet to be proved.

"The Pruis is their poster child for corporate responsibility," said Jeremy Arnell, chief executive of auto-repair shop Edmunds Inc.

Also Wednesday, one of the country's top auto safety experts waded into the debate, saying he would propose that state lawmakers stop buying Toyotas for their vehicle pool.

Toyota's stock plunged after Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, at a congressional hearing, appeared to warn owners not to drive recalled vehicles. LaHood later said he misspoke. He meant to caution people to avoid operating vehicles that have exhibited a rough or sticky gas pedal and recommended that owners get their cars fixed quickly.

The chairman of a congressional committee that plans a hearing on the recall next week sent a letter to Toyota Wednesday asking whether it was safe to drive recalled models and whether the sudden acceleration problems affected other Toyota vehicles.

Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., asked Toyota why the automaker's recall announcements came "at least two years" after it had learned of sudden acceleration problems.

Toyota fix

Toyota will install a new gas pedal after one of its potential customers dropped his lawsuit against the automaker.

Toyota, as the company's hybrid technology has grown in popularity, has made the gas pedal a key component of its vehicles.

The fix

The problem

A reinforcement bar behind one
recycled Toyota models
caused the gas pedals to be
slow to respond. A Prius
and a Califflmiia legislator said he
meant to caution people to avoid
operating vehicles that have exhibited
a rough or sticky gas pedal and
recommended that owners get their cars
fixed quickly.

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SLO Mission plays host to various music groups

Aimee Vasquez  
MISSING DAILY

The sounds of strings and wind quarters will fill the halls of the Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Saturday night, reverberating off pews and adobe walls with music written not only for places like this, but in the same era as well.

Cal Poly Music Ensembles' annual benefit concert, Night at the Mission, will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday. The hall, built to carry sound long before the advent of electronics, is one of the top locations to experience chamber music in the state.

Music minor and senior aerospace engineer Rebecca Henning has played clarinet in the concert for the last three years and said the mission really adds to the experience.

"It's a beautiful location," Henning said. "The acoustics there are incredible. It's just a warm sound, and beautiful atmosphere to be listening to music in. And if people are looking for a more low-key concert, it's a great performance."

While this performance may be low-key, proceeds from the concert will help the wind ensemble perform in a world-renowned concert hall this June. The 60-member group was chosen to be the showcase college ensemble at the 2010 Los Angeles International Music Festival in Walt Disney Concert Hall, home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

The festival features college and high school bands from around the world.

Every year, Night at the Mission raises money for Cal Poly Music Ensembles to perform in world-class settings such as Karlskirche Cathedral in Vienna, Smetana Hall in Prague and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Tuba section leader Gary Pheister played with the ensemble at their 2006 Carnegie Hall debut, and will be playing at the Walt Disney Concert Hall as well.

"There are a few great concert halls in the world," Pheister said. "Carnegie Hall is among them, and now the Walt Disney Hall as well."

He compared playing at one of these halls, where so many great musicians have gone before, to an architect getting to show their drawings to Frank Lloyd Wright, or a sports team making it to the world series.

"There's a reason these halls are lauded as world-famous," Pheister said. "It's exciting to go there as an audience member to listen to some great ensemble, but to be able to perform there as a student is exceptional!"

In fact, Night at the Mission started with a Carnegie Hall performance. Cal Poly's chamber orchestra was scheduled to play at Carnegie Hall, but lacked the funding to get there. The music department's main performing hall was booked, so they played with smaller ensembles at the mission instead.

The combination of the music and the mission was so well-received by the community that the ensembles have held the event ever since.

One of the reasons the concert became popular is that the construction of the mission affects the tone quality of the music itself. William Johnson, professor of music at Cal Poly since 1966, is the conductor of the wind orchestra and wind ensembles, some of which will be performing Saturday.

"Much of that music was written, not necessarily for that building, but for buildings just like it," Johnson said. "To have that 18th century experience is just wonderful," Johnson said.

The acoustics there are incredible. It's just a warm sound and beautiful atmosphere to be listening to music in. — Rebecca Henning

Acceptance engineering officer

Unlike many modern performing halls, the mission was built to project sound before the invention of speakers and microphones. The construction of the wooden altar, the angles of the walls and even the height of the platform contribute to the overall sound experience.

Graphic communication instructor Brian Lawler has performed and recorded choral work at the mission really adds to the experience. Graphic communication instructor Brian Lawler has performed and recorded choral work

AIMEE VASQUEZ  
MISSING DAILY

Music junior Lauren Waynczuk will play soprano saxophone in an all-saxophone adaptation of Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings."

Schedule of Events:

Mon 2/8: Kickoff BBQ at Chumash Auditorium 5 P.M.
Tues 2/9: Trapshoat 5 P.M.
Wed 2/10: Mini-burger Challenge at Franks 8 P.M.
Thurs 2/11: Bowling at Mustang Lanes 7 P.M.
Fri 2/12: Softball 3 P.M.
Sat 2/13: BBQ and Horseshoe Tournament 1 P.M.
Sun 2/14: Smoker Slideshow 6 P.M.

www.agrslo.com
Contact Information: Mitchell Yerxa - mayers@calpoly.edu - (559) 845-0696

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Journal to feature works on "campus controversies"

"Moebius" is an annual journal published by the College of Liberal Arts where student, faculty and staff can submit pieces of writing.

“Moebius” is an annual journal published by the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly where student, faculty and staff can submit pieces of writing. "Moebius" is intended to get a variety of people. "We're interested in a variety of works that are not necessarily historically or what's happening now," Blau said. "It can be taken in any way (the author) can think of whether abstract, historically or what's happening now."

Some of the major ideas that might be found in the upcoming issue are things like budget cuts, furloughs and diversity. Alongside these broader issues might be topics like the Michael Pollan presentation, hazing and suicide. "We're interested in a variety of points of view," Blau said. "It can be taken in any way (the author) can think of whether abstract, historically or what's happening now."

Just as the journal seeks to have a broad spectrum of outlooks pertinent to the theme, it also provides an assortment of ways to express those thoughts. The journal features a variety of writing styles, including essays, articles and poetry. Many of these works are submitted by faculty and students predominantly from the College of Liberal Arts. All the same, Blau said that good candidates for publication are pieces that are well written and bring something to the table that is interesting, no matter who it's written by.

"If we find something we like, we do work with authors if it's slightly falling short in some aspect," he said. "We look at the usefulness (of a piece) regardless of our own opinions; if it's enticing we'll publish it."

There is an "Interviews" section where members of the editorial board write profiles on interesting people that have some sort of tie to the theme. Sometimes, the interviewees are even some of the authors featured in another part of the journal.

Some editions include a "Recipes" section that originally focused on book reviews. This year however, the plan is to expand this to include reviews of all sorts — movies, books, music etc. Theater professor and board member Virginia Anderson plans on doing a stage review for this year's publication, Blau said.

In other editions there are special sections directly aimed at the theme of that issue. A good example is the "Recipes" section from last year's edition themed "Food for Thought."

Yet, the most popular section of "Moebius" from year to year is "The Clamut."

This section gives authors the opportunity to submit other types of works that are not necessarily related to the theme. These stretch from opinion articles, unrelated reviews, photo essays, fictional works and letters to the editor (regarding the previous year's topics).

With so many options of expression, the board is really encouraging professors to work with "Moebius" this year by either trying to negotiate pieces for submission into their curriculum or by adjudging their own works. "As faculty, they probably more than likely speak and write well. We see Moebius," page 11

New club steps to the music

The members of Driven Toward Sisterhood get ready to perform their military structure dance at Tuesday's Soup and Substance.

Raquel Redding

A demonstration of the dance stepping was held in celebration of Black History Month for February's Soup and Substance held in the University Union.

The new club, Driven Toward Sisterhood, led the demonstration and lecture of the history of stepping. Student coordinator of Black History Month and member of Driven Toward Sisterhood, Shauna Kimball said that stepping is a form of dance that involves using the body as an instrument to tell a story.

"Stepping is creating music with your body," Kimball said. "There is a mixture of foot stomping, spoken word and hand-claps that make up the sound."

Soup and Substance Coordinator Michelle Fox said she had never been to a live show for Soup and Substance. "Soup and Substance is typically a lecture series about something relevant going on in the world," Fox said.

After letting the crowd get their soup, Driven Toward Sisterhood started the performance by riling up the crowd and yelling. "Are you guys ready?" With a little introductory dance to show the large crowd what stepping was, Driven Toward Sisterhood then went on to explain the dance's origins. "(It's) a mixture of African dancing, military structure and African gum boot," Sisterhood member Kendo Ogunniru said to the crowd.

Brittany Usher said that singing and dancing was a way for slaves to communicate, as well as a way to celebrate, praise and recite history. When slaveholders found out that communication was taking place through the dancing and singing, they banned them. Thus, stepping was created.

After an African praise dance, the Sisterhood went on to explain how stepping was also formed from military structure.

Devon Buddhan, a member of Driven Toward Sisterhood, Shau na Kimball started the performance by riling up the crowd what stepping was. Driven Toward Sisterhood, Shau na Kimball said that stepping is a form of dance that involves using the body as an instrument to tell a story.

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Well hey hoolies, Cal Poly. Welcome one and all to the fifth installment of "Beer Me!" Today is a very special edition, in which I will be tasting several different beers and conveying my experience, through writing, to you! I know — I can't wait either!

Well, while drinking, we all have some things we like to do. Some of us like to dance on coffee tables until they break. But sometimes, and I mean pretty rarely, I just want to get a cigarette. That's right, sometimes when I want a great drinking experience, I go out and get a selection of beers from Stone Brewery, located in Escondido, CA. Tonight I had such an experience. I have gathered together Stone's Smoked Porter IPA and, of course, the Arrogant Bastard Ale.

As you might imagine, there is quite a significant bitter flavor to go with this happiness when the Arrogant Bastard is tasted. This should be expected with an alcohol by volume of 7.2 percent by volume.

It also seems that there's a slight smokiness mingled in with the flavor. As with the IPA, there's a floral flavor and aroma (as my nose begins to live up to its name before one even drinks it). Without a conscious thought, you can describe it as having a very distinct sensation in the mouth. I am a big fan, which really made getting to Stone's Web site, they went out by the mixture of flavors from the smoked and chocolate malts. Whether you're out getting into the porter is swallowed. If you do go out and try a few of Stone's solid collection of beers and enjoy the experience, then do I have some good news for you. Some Stone fans, who have one at my side.

Before I leave you to once again pay attention in class, I would like to end this particular article with a request. Whether you're out getting Stone, or you're out doing something slightly less legal that would add another consonant to the brewery's name, please do so responsibly.

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Best actress nominees come from various acting backgrounds

Chris Lee

LOS ANGELES — In what is certain to be one of this year's most closely watched and eagerly awaited Oscar battles, the lead actress category is shaping up as a fight between seasoned veterans and hard-won Hollywood experience.

Representing the establishment are Meryl Streep and Helen Mirren. "Julie & Julia," Streep—who portrays chef Julia Child in the film—is a tight Between gossamer youth and hard-won Hollywood experience.

In the other corner are two newcomers: Carey Mulligan and Gabourey Sidibe. Mulligan, 24, is a British ingenue most closely watched and vigorously debated (see battles, the lead actress category is shipping up to a fresh fish out of water. She announced her nomination Tuesday. "I never paid attention to what kind of roles get nominated for Oscars. I don't have another experience to judge it from.

Of her maiden film experience, the actress exclaimed: "I was just trying to get through the day!"

Then there's the outlier: the 64-year-old co-star of the Tolstoy biopic "The Last Station." is no shipper. "Julie & Julia's" Mulligan gushed. "It's so mad, because they're light-years away — honestly, they're people I've looked up to forever and ever, true idols of mine. I go bright red in the face and mumble every time I see them."

Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe is up for a best actress Oscar for her her debut acting role in the film "Precious."

was delighted to be on the Oscar ballot but denied ever having harbored award-season ambitions. "If you look at my choices, I would have made drastically different choices (in my career), if that's what I was going for," she said. "I never aspired to this path."

For her part, Mulligan registered her nomination Tuesday with unmitigated shock — as well as some awe at being classed with Streep and Mirren. "It feels like there should be separate categories for those people and they should get a double Oscar or something," Mulligan gushed. "It's so mad, because they're light-years away — honestly, they're people I've looked up to forever and ever, true idols of mine. I go bright red in the face and mumble every time I see them."

LOS ANGELES Times staff writer Rachel Almquist contributed to this report.

Music

continued from page 8

in the mission for over 25 years. "The mission fathers built it to be acoustically live," Lawler said. Although Lawler said the mission has lost some of its live-sound potential over the course of decades of restorations and the addition of a second wing, "It's a small group of people and you really play off each other a lot."

The combination of all-triumph, the organ."

There will be fresh-baked goods and hot chocolate for sale during the intermission. Tickets are $8 for children, students and seniors and $10 for adults. They can be purchased at the door, in advance at the Performing Arts Center, or by phone at 805-756-2787. For more information about the concert, contact the Cal Poly music department.

"Moebius"

continued from page 9

want to encourage more of them to participate in the journal this year and get involved," Blau said.

As well as working with professors, "Moebius" also works with the student-run agency University Geographic Systems (UGS) to format the journal in its signature style each year: three rectangular pictures, the theme, and a quote chosen by the managing editor, against a white background. Like "National Geographic's" yellow frame, "The New York Times," Goethe-fount, or "Life" magazine's white-on-red title box, having this recognizable layout brings familiarity to readers and makes it more eye-catching.

"The look is consistent even though the concept of 'Moebius' is changing," Blau said.

Because "Moebius" is funded by the Internationally Related Activities (IRA) grant, an internal grant from the university, funds are limited, especially with the new budget cuts. Working with UGS is also more financially sound and gets another part of the university involved. They also help the "Moebius" staff to circulate some 1,200 copies of the journal.

"We encourage students to pick up a copy or two if they see one," Blau said. "It's important to understand the value of these seemingly more abstract skills."

Knight agreed, saying that she hopes the journal will become better-known this year and in the future.

"There's a lot of interesting stuff in there that people aren't aware of. Things that are and aren't related to the topic of Moebius. Some interesting articles, ideas, and beautiful photo essays," she said.

The submission deadline is tomorrow. They can be made on the "Moebius" Web site. The date of distribution has not yet been announced, but it is scheduled to roll around the end of the school year in June.

The concert will include both traditional and contemporary music, played by Cal Poly's wind quintets, string quintet, saxophone quartet, trombone choir and other small chamber groups.

Music sophomore Gurveer Deol, who played at Night at the Museum last year, explained the concept of a chamber group. "A chamber ensemble is more intimate than other ensembles," Deol said. "It's a small group of people and you really play off each other a lot."

"The mission fathers built it to be acoustically live," Lawler said. Although Lawler said the mission has lost some of its live-sound potential over the course of decades of restorations and the addition of a second wing, "It's a small group of people and you really play off each other a lot."

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There will be fresh-baked goods and hot chocolate for sale during the intermission. Tickets are $8 for children, students and seniors and $10 for adults. They can be purchased at the door, in advance at the Performing Arts Center, or by phone at 805-756-2787. For more information about the concert, contact the Cal Poly music department.
Progressive ideas are solutions to challenges, not elements of an ideology

America faces several serious challenges. One major challenge is detailed in a NY Times briefing January 27, which states that in 5 people "lacked the money to buy food at some point in the last year," and that 38 million people in the U.S. -- 1 in 8 -- now receive food stamps. That's a record high, according to the Times.

On the Central Coast, those numbers aren't far from the national average. KSBY reported Tuesday that food banks in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties fed 145,000 people last year. I used U.S. Census Bureau population data from July 2008 (the most recent available) to estimate that the population of both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties is roughly 670,700, which means that food banks fed about 22 percent of the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County population -- or about 1 in 5 people.

A conservative wrote to me recently that he does not believe that progressives should be able to force him to pay taxes, which would then be allocated to social programs like food stamps, just because they think it's for his "betterment." He went on to write that paying taxes to help support programs which promote the greater good punishes people by taking their money, while rewarding those who make bad decisions.

To be completely fair, he was careful to note that he did not support conservative or liberal programs, which promote the greater good.

I disagree on a couple of levels, and the reason I'm taking issue with this particular comment is that this view has been expressed by several people in the past.

First, paying taxes which go toward social programs is not for the taxpayer's "betterment." A certain percentage of his tax dollars go toward food stamps for people who can't afford food, and who don't have a job due to the recession. His tax dollars do not help him, the taxpayer. They help the 38 million Americans on food stamps.

Second, paying taxes is not a punishment. It's a duty owed to one's country. It's a matter of giving back to the government so it can function properly. Also, many people who are receiving food stamps and other social services are in that situation not because of bad judgment, but because they can't find a job due to the recession.

Liberals do not necessarily advocate for social programs, market regulation, public option health care, or raising corporate taxes (as Oregon did this week). In fact, being progressive is not about ideology. We simply see problems such as poverty, corruption and thousands of deaths due to a lack of health insurance, and we know of no other logical, viable solutions.

Stephanie England is an English senior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

Write a letter to the editor

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and length. Letters, commentaries and columns are selected for publication based on their merit and relevance to the school and the neighboring community. We appreciate your real essays and word-laid out, gramatically correct reading. Please send your contribution to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

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Mustang Daily
"I'm always high pitched and well."
It's possible to be a conscious coffee addict

From early-morning truck stops to strong-brewed Italian to four-buck frappuchinos, people all over the world enjoy a cup of the comforting adrenalin rush. There is an ongoing discussion in the health world over the effects of caffeine on everything from bone health to mental well-being. The end result is that the American culture is full of coffee-myths.

The world has been steeped in coffee since, as legend has it, the first hyper goats ate coffee berries in the highlands of ninth-century Ethiopia. An observant goat herder reported his animals' strange behavior to an abbot at the local monastery, who then brewed the berries and discovered that their wakeful properties helped him with his long evening prayers.

The beverage trickled across the strait from Ethiopia to Arabia over the next few centuries. By the 16th century, the beverage was known throughout the Middle East. The Ottoman sultans in Istanbul imported a particularly sweet, rich coffee named after its most prevalent port, Mocha. By the 17th century, coffee had made its way to the western continents.

Even back then, coffee had its share of critics. In Italy, clergymen condemned the mind-altering drink as evil, and the controversy escalated until Pope Clement VIII tasted coffee and approved it.

Today's cultural pro-saving, however, is more often based on health concerns than religion. One of the more common claims is that drinking coffee stunts your growth, based on the theory that coffee causes osteoporosis. Today's studies show that a high intake of caffeine, more than 300 milligrams a day, may lead to calcium loss, but the effect is so minor, that it can be offset by adding 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk to each cup.

In addition, many of the early studies were done on populations who were replacing milk with soda or coffee, so that their higher hydration levels. According to a study described in Nursing Standard, dehydration only becomes a factor if you drink more than five strong cups of coffee a day.

Another myth is that coffee causes dehydration. Numerous studies show that, while caffeine increases the immediate urge to urinate, a few cups of coffee a day will not markedly affect overall hydration levels. According to a study described in Nursing Standard, dehydration only becomes a factor if you drink more than five strong cups of coffee a day. According to an article in the Harvard Health School Publications, the famed after-coffee crash is best avoided by consuming two to three ounces of coffee every hour or so, rather than drinking 16 ounces at once.

Caffeine, as many people know, is considered to be mildly addictive. Yet studies show that, while withdrawal effects, such as headache, irritability, difficulty concentrating and fatigue do occur, the symptoms lessen within a few days. The American Medical Association Council on Scientific Affairs states that three, eight-ounce cups of coffee a day is a moderate amount, while 10, eight-ounce cups of coffee a day is considered excessive.

As a caveat, people with high blood pressure should limit their coffee to less than two cups a day, if any, and pregnant women might want to avoid the beverage until studies are conclusive.

But the rest of you might want to up your intake. Recent studies have linked the benefits of the beverage to long-term brain health, increased sports performance, higher pain tolerance, a reduced risk of heart attack and stroke and possibly a decreased risk of liver cancer.

An article in the Harvard Women's Health Watch states that the risk for type 2 diabetes is lower among regular coffee drinkers. There are ongoing studies that look the regular use of coffee to a smaller risk of dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

In addition, a Kaiser Permanente study found that coffee drinkers were less likely to commit suicide, possibly because caffeine increases the brain's production of dopamine.

So order that venti with pride, and enjoy it. It's culture and utility co-existing in a cup.

—Aimee Lasquez is a journalism wri­ter and Mustang Daily reporter.
Bowl
continued from page 16
Super Bowl XIII. In what many re­
gard as the best Super Bowl of all time, it has to be on your top five list, the Steelers earned Team of the '70s honors with a 35-31 victory over Dallas.

Terry Bradshaw and Roger Staubach combined for 546 yards passing and seven touchdowns. Staubach combined for 346 yards passing and seven touchdowns.

Joe Flacco and Mark Sanchez?
The Colts have not faced a team able to throw a variety of receiving weapons at them—since they played New England in November.

Some would say only a bad gamble by Bill Belichick allowed the Colts to win that game, 35-34. Whatever chance the Colts had of slowing down Brees has likely been derailed by the severe ankle sprain suffered by pass-rushing end Dwight Freemon. My guess is that he won't play at all.

Without him, the Colts lack the pressure that Minnesota was able to apply to Brees in slowing down the Saints' attack. I don't think there's any way New Orleans is as limited in the Super Bowl as it was in the NFC title game.

But the Saints also cannot expect Manning and the Colts backs to turn the ball over the way Brett Favre and Adrian Peterson did in that game. The Saints rely on big breaks on defense to offset the big plays they surrender.

In this game, there's no way those two things are going to match up. Linebacker Jonathan Vilma already has conceded the signal—calling battle to Manning.

"He can take the play clock down to five seconds and decide he wants to change something," Vilma said. "I don't have time to switch things back in four seconds or less."

He'll definitely win that battle.

The Saints also lack a cornerback with the cover skills of the Jets' Darrelle Revis. He was able to neutralize Reggie Wayne in the AFC title game. But that just allowed Manning to kill the Jets with Pierre Garcon, Austin Collie and Dallas Clark.

With no Steel Curtain, no Doomsday, no Ravens-like defense on hand to take over a game Sunday night, this one is in the hands of the two best quarterbacks in the league.

Unlike so many Super Bowls, the first quarterback to put 30 points on the board... gets the lead at halftime.

Kiffin
continued from page 16
player DE Ronald Powell out of Moreno Valley Calif., leaving Mey­er and Kiffin neck-and-neck in a
time, it has to be on your top five

DELIOUS turn of fate. Meyer might have thought he was done with the recruiting battle t(i Manning.

Interestingly, three teams that had their coaching situations in­

Terry Bradshaw and Roger Staubach combined for 546 yards

Staubach combined for 346 yards passing and seven touchdowns.

Joe Flacco and Mark Sanchez?
The Colts have not faced a team able to throw a variety of receiving

North Carolina's Mike Jones Streams lunges toward the goal line Saturday, Feb. 6th at 7 p.m.

Admission for all Cal Poly Athletic Events is FREE for Cal Poly Students.
A lot can happen in the span of a week. The Cal Poly men's basketball team entered last week with a head full of steam. They had just gotten off to their best start in the Big West in school history. Dominating wins against UC Riverside and Cal State Northridge translated to a 5-2 record.

But, in a battle for second place in conference against UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs fell short by 23 points. With their eyes set on revenge, they traveled back home to square off against a team that had three wins on the season — Cal State Bakersfield. The Mustangs could not complete the deed as a second-half rally fell short, and fell to 8-12 on the season and 3-3 in the Big West.

"I really feel like this was the most challenging week we have had this season," head coach Joe Callero said at Monday's press conference.

The Mustangs lost more than just some ground in the standings last week; they got a little banged up in the midst of suffering back-to-back losses. They're running on a bit of a flat tire.

"We have a lot of sickness; we have a lot of hurt ankles and hurt wrists and hurt ribs and hurt hips," Callero said.

Battered and bruised, the Mustangs will travel north to square up against in-state rival UC Davis (8-12, 4-4) tonight.

"Unfortunately we are going into probably... the thickest part of the storm," Callero said. "The point that we are trying to get through to our team is the opponents don't really care about our physical status, or mental status." The ensuing stretch of games will test Cal Poly's endurance. Five of its next six games will be away and that means of the next 18 days, 11 of the them are on the road — a place that hasn't been kind to the Mustangs. They are 3-9 away from home.

To start the season, Cal Poly embar ked on a five-game road trip. It spanned a total of 15 days, full of hotels and hostile crowds. When the Mustangs headed home they had five consecutive losses with no wins. Tonight offers up the challenge of the revenge-seeking Aggies, a team the Mustangs only beat by three points the first time around. In that win at Mott Gym, senior guard Lorenzo Keeler led the team with 22 points. Sophomore forward David Hanson added 16 from the bench and senior forward Ryan Darling recorded a double-double. The Aggies did hold a nine-point lead in the second half as the game was close throughout.

"They're sitting, right behind us with that redemption game in their eyes," Callero said.

In their previous match-up, the Mustangs shot more than 50 percent from the field. Against Santa Barbara and Bakersfield, the Mustangs shot an average of 33 percent from the field.

"That is more of a concern to me than what happened last week. What we've got to be able to do is kind of regenerate some energy and regenerate some consistent offense," Callero said. "If you look at the good victories we've had on the road, at Irvine and at Long Beach State, we shot a high percentage offensively, and that really energizes the team defensively." The next two games can prove to be make or break for the Mustangs. In a difficult conference stretch, Cal Poly cannot afford to lose ground.

"Hopefully we get up there to the Bay Area with (the) Davis and Pacific teams and see if we can't sneak a victory out of them," Callero said.

— Alex Kashi, Brian Di Los Santos and Zach Lantz contributed to this article.