Residents march for health care reform

The protest was part of a nationwide demonstration held by Health Care for America Now and sponsored by People United for Healthcare and Jobs. Go to mustangdaily.net for the full story.

Business symposium set for tonight

Mikaela Akuna
MUSTANG DAILY

The Central Coast Business Symposium will take place tonight at the Clark Center in Arroyo Grande. It will feature a variety of different speakers. After the success of last year’s symposium, host Andre, Morris and Buttery, a Central Coast law firm, decided to hold another.

The symposium is co-sponsored by Barnett Cox and Associates, Morris Gartran, Taylor Frigon Capital Management and Poor Richard’s Press. It will begin with a discussion moderated by Jonathan York, Cal Poly’s head of the Orfalea College of Business. He came to Cal Poly last year and is the former CEO of multiple organizations. York will be facilitating talks between Cal Poly alumni Ty Sufrenco, co-founder of Trust Automation; Randy Flamming, co-founder of IQMS, software developers and Steve Newell, co-owner of Windsor Farms. He said he likes the variety of sources the round table is going to offer and wants to take a look at local success stories.

“We want to look at what it takes to grow a business in the area. What are the success factors?” York said. York also said that he is looking forward to listening to fellow symposium speaker Lloyd Greif.

Greif is the founder of Greif and Company, a venture capital firm from Southern California. He will give his insights on the obstacles and financing options that businesses will face. Greif will also touch on how small businesses can gain access to and secure capital money to help with start-up costs. Mike Gibson, firm administrator at Andre, Morris and Buttery said he is excited for tonight’s symposium line-up. The topics being discussed have different focuses than those of last year’s symposium, held in honor of the firm’s 60-year anniversary.

This year, the keynote speaker for the night is Stanford professor Walter “Woody” Powell. Powell is an education professor who also teaches courses in sociology, organizational behavior, management science and communication. Powell will lecture on why different industries thrive in locations where others do not. He will also speak on what types of industries can thrive on the Central Coast and in conjunction with the university.

York said a lot of business could potentially do well in this area.

“I think small technological start-ups have a lot of potential here with the help of mentors and community (sponsors) to help with a lot of start-up fees,” he said.

He added that the panel is excited to hear what the audience has to say.

“I think it will be a good variety of sources and audience input,” he said. “That way, we can try and get a good understanding of where people think we’re going.”

Along the estimated 300 attendees will be business sensor and Cal Poly Entrepreneurs Club member Jessie Becker.

“I am going to the symposium because it seems like it will be a great opportunity to learn and network and to see what business is available around the area and how we can support each other,” said Becker.

see Symposium, page 2

Budget protests scarce at Poly

Zach Lanz
MUSTANG DAILY

Budget cuts, furloughs and fewer class sections have impacted the quality of education in the California State University (CSU) system.

Students and faculty have protested around the state at campuses such as Sacramento State, San Diego State and Cal State Northridge. But at Cal Poly, protests have been relatively scarce.

Other than a protest last October and a few teach-ins designed to educate students on budget cuts, the campus has not protested the budget cuts to higher education.

However, Cal Poly faculty and staff have recently sounded the call for action. The Cal Poly California Faculty Association (CFA) and CSU Employees Union (CSUEU) voted to actively support the March 4 National Day of Action to Defend Education. The CSUEU board of directors passed their resolution to show unanimous support.

Physics professor and local CFA president Rich Suzer is trying to coordinate demonstrations and contact the offices of State Senator Abel Maldonado, who has been renominated for lieutenant governor. The choice was an obvious one because if he does become lieutenant governor Maldonado will hold a seat on the CSU Board of Trustees.

“Since we have a local leader of the state, we want to rally at his office to show our support,” said Suzer.

see Protests, page 2
I think that the students and the faculty both feel sort of powerless in the face of all of it.

—Rachel Fernholts

Academic Senate chair
Menlo Park firefighters inspect the site of a twin-engine Cessna plane that crashed in East Palo Alto, Calif., Sunday. Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said a pilot and two passengers are dead.

Maria L. LaGanga and Maura Dolan

EAST PALO ALTO, Calif. — Residents of a densely packed neighborhood in East Palo Alto awakened to a mesh of smoke and fire Wednesday when a small plane carrying employees of an electric car company crashed in dense fog, spewing debris over several homes.

The plane hit 60-foot-high transmission lines, and its fuselage was found tangled in wires. On board were three employees of Tesla Motors Inc., a San Carlos, Calif.-based firm that builds electric-powered vehicles. The employees, who were not immediately identified, were headed to Hawthorne, Calif., where the company has operations.

"Tesla is a small, tightly knit company, and this is a tragic day for us," said Elon Musk, Tesla's chief executive.

Emergency responders said it was miraculous that no one on the ground was seriously injured. Four houses and five vehicles were damaged.

Caryn Ramirez, 18, was changing her baby when the Cessna 310 slammed down on her street.

"It got dark, and then there was an orange flash," Ramirez said. "Two seconds later the house shook. I looked outside. There was a huge flame." Most of the city of Palo Alto — 28,000 customers — lost power for nearly nine hours after the plane sliced transmission lines. Traffic lights were down, City Hall was open but had no power and only sporadic telephone service and libraries were shuttered. Hospitals canceled non-emergency surgeries and operated with emergency generators.

The twin-engine plane crashed shortly after taking off from Palo Alto Airport after filing a flight plan that permitted the pilot to fly in inclement weather.

Josh Cavrath, an aviation accident investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, said investigators were "looking into the weather conditions." An hour before the crash there was only an eighth of a mile of visibility at the airport, he said.

"Until they got right up on the incident, they didn't know what they had," Harold Schapelhouman, chief of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, said at a morning news conference down the street from the crash.

Bodies of Tesla Motors Inc., a San Carlos, Calif.-based firm that builds electric-powered vehicles, were not immediately identified.
Five U.S. troops were killed as insurgents fired mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns from the surrounding mountainside. Eight Afghan troops and an Afghan translator were also killed.

Jonathan S. Landay
MCLEAN, Va. — The absence of senior leaders in the operations center with troops in contact...and their consequent lack of situational awareness and decisive action was a key, if subtle, factor.

Another major factor, it said, was the operations center officers' failure to provide "effective" artillery fire on the insurgents, despite repeated requests from the battlefield.

The acting commander and "all commissioned staff officers" failed to "monitor a rapidly degenerating tactical situation," the report said. That mistake "prevented timely supporting fires in the critical early phases of the operation and ensured that higher headquarters did not grasp the tactical situation."

Only four artillery salvos were fired in the first hour of the operation; three were ineffective and no more salvos were authorized from 6:39 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., the report said.

One of the majors testified that he denied further requests for fire support "for various reasons including lack of situational awareness of locations of friendly elements, proximity to the village, garbled communications or inaccurate or incomplete calls for fire."

The inquiry, however, found that too many calls over a radio network "may account for some confusion in the conduct of fires, but in our judgment is not an adequate explanation for the complete lack of fires from 0639 until 1615."

The report found that the failure to provide adequate artillery support wasn't due to a tactical directive issued by Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal that was designed to avert civilian casualties, as officers involved in the battle believed.

"A second key failure was the lack of timely air support," the report said.

An unidentified officer denied a request from the battlefield to send a helicopter gunship that was minutes away because the requests weren't sent through his brigade headquarters and the aircraft was assigned to another operation, the report said.

The "probability is high" that Marine 1st Lt. Michael E. Johnson of Virginia Beach, Va.; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Edwin W. Johnson of Columbia, Md.; Marine Staff Sgt. Aaron M. Kendeck of Roswell, Ga.; and Navy Petty Officer James R. Layton of Riverside, Calif., were killed during the more than an hour that it took for air support to be properly authorized and arrive on the scene, the report said.

Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Westbrook of Colorado Springs, Colo., was wounded at the same time and died in October at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

"This decision, while technical and correct on procedural grounds, was devastating in its consequences," the report said. "The correct tactical decision was clearly to divert (the helicopter). It was at that point in the fight that experienced, decisive senior leadership was most lacking."

A "third key failure" was a decision by the two majors not to send a relief force into the valley, said the report.

"I believe in the cause, but it's not something I'd really do. Most students just aren't passionate enough to show up,"

- Anu Menon, biological sciences junior

"I would definitely be there. I think students should be there; our interests are the same."

-Don Hartig, Cal Poly mathematics professor

"I don't see myself showing up. I don't see other students doing it."

-Jason Chapman, business administration senior

"I would protest if I had the time. I support it, it's my school too."

-Samantha Hevmann, kinesiology freshman

"I'm basically out of here in June. It doesn't really matter to me."

-Michael Pearl, business administration senior

"It's definitely something I would protest about. I'll read the article and find out more details."

-William Ladrin, business administration junior

COMPILLED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALEX KACK

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE DEFENDING CIVIL, LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Bill McLennan
MCLENNAN LAW
CRIMINAL DEFENSE

www.mcclennanlaw.com
Teacher Feature

What did you do before you became an instructor at Cal Poly? I'm the queen of the A.D.D. jobs, but all of them were in this industry. The big one was with Time magazine. That one was in New York. I was the print and distribution assistant operations manager, and when we moved back to Los Angeles, I worked for Warner Bros. in Burbank. So I always worked in graphic communication in some capacity, just a lot of different jobs.

What is your favorite book? I seriously must read about 16 novels a week, so finding a favorite is going to be a tough one. There was this book that came out that was called, "The Art of Racing in the Rain." It was a book about relationships, from the dog's perspective with his master.

What do you do with your spare time? I read, and I grade a lot of papers. I should say that I'm working on my thesis, but I'm not really. I like to ski, and I like to rollerblade. Pretty much any activity where you can go fast and not put a lot of effort into it.

If you could meet anyone, alive, dead or fictional, who would you like to meet? I'd like to meet Amelia Earhart. First of all because I want to know what happened to her, and second of all because she was able to do a lot even though there were limitations set on her.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be? So many places. There are a million places I still want to go. It's always been my dream to go to Africa and specifically Madagascar. If I could, I'd do a road trip through the whole continent. It just seems so diverse.

Where have you been? That's a really, really long list. I've been as far north as Alaska, as far south as Australia. My favorite place was Fiji so far. I've never been to Asia, Africa or South America, but I've pretty much covered the rest. And well, not Australia either. I guess, if we're covering continents. My parents wanted me to see more of the world than they had. It's so good to travel when you're young before you join the workforce, because it changes your perspective so much. It teaches you diversity internally as well as externally.

What language do you speak besides English? I'm first generation Swiss. That's why I went there for a year, to get to know the Swiss culture. I'm learning Dutch, a language I had to learn for my thesis. I love it. It's so different.

Do you have a funny, inspiring, crazy or interesting teacher you want to know more about? Send teacher suggestions to: mustangdailywire@gmail.com

Crash
continued from page 5

Schapelhousen said. Some residents of the neighborhood of modest bungalows and barbed windows said they had been concerned in the past about low-flying planes, and questioned why the aircraft was permitted to take off in dense fog.

Bernice Turner-Ragland, 49, said she heard explosions.

"I went outside, and you could see the fire flare up," said the longtime resident. "That's when I became very, very frightened and went inside the house."

Schapelhousen said part of a wing hit a house in front of a day care center. The house caught fire, but those inside, including at least one child, escaped. The center was unscathed.

The plane was registered to Air Unique Inc. of Santa Clara, Calif., owned by Doug Howey, 57, of Santa Clara, a senior electrical engineer at Tesla.

A neighbor left a pot of lilacs on Howey's front porch Wednesday with a note that read: "Doug, Thank you for always being there for me and my family. You will forever be missed."

Despite past troubles, Tesla has been gaining momentum as gas prices have risen and consumers have warmed to electric cars. The firm's Roadster sports car sells for about $109,000, though federal tax credits can trim the cost for buyers. Last May, the company recalled 345 of its Roadsters built before April 22, 2009, due to suspension problems that could cause drivers to lose control.

"Tesla isn't a very big company, and this tragedy will be felt, I'm sure," said David Menkin, president of IPRAwmcd.com.

In this advertisement for 10% Off Chicken and Pork

This Place Will Never Let You Go!

Leonardo DiCapri0
Shutter Island

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Michelle Williams, Benicio Del Toro and Jack Nicholson

In Theaters Everywhere February 19

Cal Poly meat science

Meat produced by Cal Poly students

Fresh meat case stocked weekly

- • New York & Flat Iron Steak
- • Gourmet Brats & Sausages
- • Beef Jerky

Cal Poly Meats Lab

Bring this advertisement for 10% Off Chicken and Pork
Byzantium fundraiser to feature love poetry

Byzantium co-editor and Mustang Daily copy editor Beth Shirley is also excited for the reading and said she hopes to get students to come out and support their professors. "When I go to poetry readings, I find myself very inspired to write my own poetry," she said. "It's such a great expression of emotion and feeling, and it's cool to see that from faculty."

In addition to reading their original poems, various faculty will also have their books of poetry on sale at the event.

"It's a fun thing to do. It doesn't have to be your stereotypical romantic date," Lane said. "The poems are about love, but neither for nor against. I know some of them are going to be really funny. It's going to be a truthful night about love."

Six faculty members will be reading, as well as two winners from last year's contest. The reading is tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Science North Building in room 215. The reading is free, although donations are accepted. All donations go to production costs for Byzantium, which will be available in late spring.

"I hope that the readers get to function for the people in the audience in the way that a hand dropping a pebble into a pool would function — to create some ripples that affect life on the shores."

Dr. James Cushing, San Luis Obispo's 2009 Poet Laureate, will be the MC for the evening and will also read some of his own work.

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Cal Poly's literary journal, Byzantium, will be hosting the annual LoverSpeak poetry reading tonight. The event will feature original love-themed poetry written and read by Cal Poly English professors and lecturers.

Organized by this year's Byzantium co-editors, Beth Shirley and Marjana Lane, LoverSpeak serves as a fundraiser for the journal, which features short stories and poems by Cal Poly students.

The journal has been passed down through the English department as a senior project, normally headed by two selected English majors and one art director. This gives the English seniors a more hands-on route for their otherwise intangible projects.

"It's all student-run," Lane said. "We have no outside help, which is really cool. It's definitely a learn-by-doing aspect for Cal Poly."

Students who wish to be published submit their work to the annual Al Landwehr Creative Writing contest. English faculty reviews the picks their team of utility then work and top three choices for each category, both poetry and short fiction.

The contest is the deciding factor for Byzantium content. The first, second and third place winners receive cash prizes, as well as a feature in the award-winning literary journal. The editors also get to include their favorites that don't place with the judges.

In order to fund such a project, the editors must find ways to raise money while promoting awareness for the journal. LoverSpeak has proven to be a blend of the two and also a unique opportunity to see a personal side of professors and lecturers.

"When I go to poetry readings, I find myself very inspired to write my own poetry," she said. "It's such a great expression of emotion and feeling, and it's cool to see that from faculty."

Cushing said he is as excited as the students to hear his fellow faculty discuss their views on love. "Everyone who will be reading has his or her own experience of love and his or her own track record and, you know, flights of glory and walks of shame," he said.

"Endless horizon"
Al Jazeera documentary draws crowd of more than 100 viewers

Alimee Vasquez

Cal Poly students filled 102 seats, lined the classroom walkway and stood in the doorway for the Al Jazeera documentary, "The Promised Land?" presented by Students for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (SJPME) Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

We do live in a global world in which the speed of communication and transportation have made us interconnected and interdependent. We no longer live in a bubble.

——Malitha Zulfacar
Social sciences professor

The documentary presented a history of the state of Israel, narrated in Oxford accents over crackly footage and translated over the Persian plot for their annihilation. Social sciences professor Malitha Zulfacar saw the documentary, page 8

Northern California brewery stresses balance

Well, well, well. Here we are again. Face to face. Just you and me. And that creepy person who somehow always ends up sitting next to you — even when you're just minding your own business on Dexter Lawn. So m e h o w they always show up. Yep, just the three of us.

Right. Well any­w a y , a couple of weeks ago I chose to sample a beer from the southern area of this fine state of ours. Now, just to be fair, I have gone with a beer that hails from the northern part of our state. This week’s beers come from a brewpub up in Fairfield called Blue Frog Greg & Grill. Say that five times fast. Oh, and don’t worry about going on Wikipedia to figure out what grog is — I took care of that for you. In short, grog can encompass a wide variety of alcoholic beverages that are mostly, but not all, mixed.

In fact, this is from this Bay Area brewery that I have taken today’s samples, Blonde Frog Ale, Hefe Weizen and India Pale Ale. These are three consistently mild

see Blue Frog, page 8

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see Blue Frog, page 8
Blue Frog

continued from page 7

and smooth beers that are slightly unique twists on the classic styles.

The first Blue Frog brew that I sampled was the Blonde Frog Ale. Light-feeling pale ale it may be, but it still packs a bit o' punch with 6.75 percent alcohol. Upon letting the aroma of this ale waft into my nostrils, I found it to be a rather floral one. This is a pleasant contrast to that of last week's citrus beers.

Also, much like the beers to follow, this one is that none too hoppy, but was made using an extra amount of pale malt. This beer isn't exceptionally unique or complex, but it is certainly enjoyable, especially for those of you who are fans of the lighter beers.

The next beer up is the Blue Frog Hefeweizen, a German-style wheat beer. While this beer is certainly high in yeast, it manages to still have a mild, balanced flavor. As with the blonde and most hefe weizens, this beer also uses hops that produce a more floral flavor and aroma, though this one has a bit of spice to it.

Of course, the flavor of the blonde and hefe beer is yeast. The bottle's label is printed upside down with an arrow containing the words "this end up" pointing to the bottom. As you flip the bottle to read the description, it is revealed to you that all this was done to ensure that you release the yeast back into the beer before pouring.

This is because in unfiltered hefe weizens, the yeast will settle to the bottom of the bottle while in storage. Releasing the yeast back into the beer is an important process for the consumer to enjoy the full flavor of the hefe weizen as intended. Of course, the beverage will still be drinkable if this step is skipped, but the flavor is enhanced when the yeast is reintroduced into the beer.

And finally, we come to Blue Frog's India Pale Ale. Now I know you're thinking, "Another IPA? Adam! Really?" But I do love them, and every ale is different. For example, this IPA prides itself on being a more balanced brew. With less hoppyness and more malt, it is (surprise!) a more mild beer. It has a rating of 60 international bitterness units (IBUs), which is somewhat low for a typical IPA (Firestone's Union Jack IPA is 70 IBUs, as are Stone Brewing's IBAs). But don't let this milder version of an IPA trick you into thinking you're not getting as much alcohol. The still substantial Alcohol By Volume of 7 percent is masked by the lack of bitterness and the extra amount of pale malt.

When first drinking this beer, one is again greeted by floral notes that are common in IPA, as well as the extra maltiness. It isn't until the aftertaste that one really gets the feel and flavor that is traditionally associated with IPAs, though that bitterness does make a welcome appearance.

The word of the day for these beers is "balance." Blue Frog seems to focus on smooth, mild beers that have a satisfying balance of ingredients. While I myself prefer hoppiest beers, I can certainly appreciate the goal of this brewery.

Speaking of goals, one cannot expect to get through life without setting any goals. And we're not just talking big goals, like 50 Cent's "Get Rich or Die Tryin'". We're talking about the smaller goals of how to get rich, or better yet, how to avoid death while trying. Probably the easiest way to avoid death would be to sedate oneself in a padded room in an insane asylum. A close second would be using good judgment while consuming alcohol. So go out there and set your goals. Get rich and skip the whole die trying part. And when you do get rich, don't cut the enjoyment short. Continue to drink responsibly. Don't drink and drive, or die trying.

Adam Pachuta is a business administration major and Mustang Daily beat columnist.

Documentary

continued from page 7

Zulfacar teaches a class on ethnic conflict on a global scale, and intends to show her own documentary, "Kab-Tel Transit," on March 2. She said that when watching a documentary, it is important to take note of who the director is and where he or she is coming from.

In this case, the movie was made by Al Jazeera, a state-sponsored, Middle Eastern broadcasting station with an international news focus. Political science freshman Danny Outlaw said he thinks it is good to learn all sides of the issue.

"I don't think there's such a thing as an unbiased documentary," he said. "But as far as something made by Al Jazeera, it could've been a lot worse."

Business senior Ian Drogin said he attended the event because he was interested to learn more about the Middle East "and to get a better understanding of the messages being conveyed to Cal Poly students."

It's important for Cal Poly students to become increasingly aware about world events, Zulfacar said.

"The physical distance should not keep us isolated and unaware about the global issues," she said. "We do live in a global world in which the speed of communication and transportation have made us interconnected and interdependent. We no longer live in a bubble."

The documentary is part of a series the club is doing on Middle Eastern conflicts from a variety of perspectives. SPJME secretary Haoum Elnir, an electrical engineering graduate student, said this is the first event of the quarter for students interested in the Middle East, and that they will hold more events that focus on the Israeli-Palestine conflict.
Partisanship pervades California politics. The state got a dose of the disease when the state Senate rejected Arnold Schwarzenegger’s appointment to lieutenant governor, Abel Maldonado. He is a Republican appointment, which is natural since the governor is Republican. But that’s no excuse for Democrats to reject his appointment for no reason other than his political affiliation.

And the Senate Democrats got so many things wrong in their arguments on the floor. Senator Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles) told his fellow senators, “There is a time for us to be partisan. That is during an election.”

On the contrary, partisanship does not belong in politics at all—not in confirming political appointees, not in passing bills or budgets and especially not in elections. That’s what is wrong with the system. Politicians and many voters are too concerned about electing the ideologue. Even as a Republican, I don’t blame Evan Bayh for wanting to leave politics to do something that he thought the political system was dysfunctional. Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn) said, “There’s nothing wrong with partisanship. We’ve got to get over this notion that there’s something inherently evil about partisanship.” He went on to identify the real problem as “a lack of civility.” He continued, “It’s the lack of ability to compromise.” Dodd’s argument is just as broken as the political system itself. Politicians can’t compromise and are not civil because they’re too partisan. They’re looking out for their own interests, not the interests of Americans. That causes them to refuse to cross party lines and to generate backstabbing, slash and burn tactics during election seasons.

And I don’t blame Evan Bayh for wanting to leave politics to do good on a smaller scale. Congress is not functioning anymore. It’s ugly and, more importantly, it’s counterproductive. I don’t know how this problem of partisanship can be fixed. It is such a nationwide problem, and it’s now so indistinguishable from the practices of our politicians that we would have to remove the majority of the senators and representatives out of office and elect new representatives to even begin to see reform.

What I do know is that our generation is generally opposed to partisanship and the fact that it exists will either create apathy or a zeal to change the system. But it begins with each of us. It’s important that people who vote think about the character of our representatives, and that we consider the other side’s point of view.

I write my column every week, and I read the comments that are posted, too. And while there are certainly exceptions, what I see in those comments is partisanship and meanness—the very thing we all seem to hate. I just encourage everyone to come up with reasons for their beliefs, which don’t include a basic ideological hatred or fear of the other point of view. Otherwise, politics in America will never change.

Stephanie England is a English senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.
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them are ranked in the top 15 of the country," Milich said. "We're pretty solid right now where we are, we haven't really rested for our meets so now we're at the time of the year where we get to rest ... We're moving in the right direction (and) the program is moving in the right direction."

Sophomore Lucy Buck won both the 1,000 and 1,650 freestyle at conference championships. This year she owns the conference best times in the 500 freestyle, 1,000 freestyle and 1,650 freestyle.

Coach Milich feels that his swimmers have come together as a group, and that has led to a different type of team.

"That's the thing that has changed most dramatically with this group is that they are a team, everything they do is as a team. When I first got here, we didn't have team sweats, we didn't have team caps, we didn't have a lot of stuff. Now they're always as a team," Coach Milich said.

Kyle France broke the school record in the 400 IM, and Katrina Anderson owns the conference best time in the 200 backstroke.

In the women's 800 freestyle relay, the group of Anderson, Katrina Schleicher, Chrissy Thomas and Camille Buckett nabbed the best time in the conference.

Last year, Cal Poly produced three Big West champions. Lacey Buck won both the 1,000 and 1,650 freestyle on her way to Big West female freshman of the year honors while Gloria Benefield, who is currently redshirting this season, won the 200 freestyle.

Despite breaking 19 school records during the Big West meet in 2009, Cal Poly placed fourth on the women's side while the men's team finished fifth.

"We want to have a good game for our seniors," Bloechter said. "We all love our seniors, so it will be sad to see them go."

Their last conference home game against Northridge will be this Saturday Feb. 20 at 4 pm in Mott Gym.

After Northridge, Cal Poly travels to UC Santa Barbara and then UC Irvine to finish off the season. Santiago says the team has continually struggled playing at Cal State Fullerton, even in previous years.

"We played horrible there," she said. "My concern is changing that around this time. UC Santa Barbara has a lot of crazy fans too, which is a downside."

With a 29.3 points-per-game scoring average, Santiago is also the 10th Mustang to record 200 plus rebounds during one year. Santiago needs a mere 36 points in the next four games to become the first player in program history to score 500 points and grab 200 rebounds in the same season.
Mustangs to host Northridge in final home game

Katherine Grady
mustang daily

In their last home game, the Cal Poly women’s basketball team tips off against Cal State Northridge this weekend in an attempt to stay atop the Big West. The Mustangs (16-8, 9-3 Big West) have only four games left before conference ends and tournament play begins, putting them one step closer to a Big West Championship. Cal State Northridge (4-18, 1-9) is tied for last place in the league, meaning a win against Cal Poly this weekend would be their last chance to make it into the championship tournament.

“We expect them to come out aggressive to try and assure that spot,” assistant coach Kern Nakamoto said.

Battle the flu for the second week in a row, Big West scoring leader Kristina Santiago says overlapping Northridge based on the standings would be a bad idea.

“They have beaten some good teams,” she said. “They are scrappy and hustle a lot. It would be a huge loss if we lose this one.”

Victorious in eight straight home games, the Mustangs attempt to remain atop the first undefeated home game season against Big West opposition in program history. The Mustangs (16-8) and Northridge winning percentage is also a single-season program record. The Mustangs have outscored opponents by 10.1 points per game in Mott Gym this season and held teams to a 38.1 percentage is also a single-season program record. The Mustangs may be young, we’re inexperienced, but that doesn’t mean they can’t win from here out to hold on to that spot.”

“We expect them to come out aggressive to try and assure that spot,” assistant coach Kern Nakamoto said.

They are scrappy and hustle a lot. It would be a huge loss if we lost this one.”

—Kristina Santiago
Cal Poly junior forward

With the women’s team finishing fourth and the men’s team finishing fifth last year, the Mustangs are looking to improve their standing this season. Head coach Tom Milich said his team is peaking right in time for the conference championship.

“We’ve done a very good job of getting up and racing. We’re young, we’re inexperienced, but we’re racing faster than we’ve ever swum before,” he said.

The Mustangs had three swimmers qualify for the B standard qualifying for the NCAA Division I National Championships this year. Junior Matt Waggoner qualified provisionally in the 1650 freestyle, 1:00.00 freestyle and 1:05.50 freestyle.

Joining Waggoner is junior Peter Kline who has also met the provisional qualifying standard in the 200 backstroke, 200 individual medley and 400 individual medley.

“We like being at home,” Santiago said. “It’s an advantage for us with the crowd and the atmosphere. It creates pressure for us to do well on the road. We are mentally trying to prepare for back-to-back away games.”

Part of that preparation is extra time spent in the gym.

“Even on their day, off I saw some of them in the gym shooting around or running,” Nakamoto said. “That was nice to see.”

First place is getting harder to hold on to as the competition catches up to the Mustangs. Cal Poly leads UC Davis (16-8, 8-3) by only half a game in the Big West Standings and UC Riverside (11-14, 8-4) by a full game.

“Davis is right behind us,” sophomore post Abby Bloetscher said. “Not only will we have a better chance of catching up to the Mustangs. Cal Poly’s forward Kristina Santiago ranks first in the Big West with 20.3 points per game. She also ranks second in the conference in rebounding, averaging 10.1 boards per game.

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Men’s basketball

Men’s basketball

loses 75-68

Senior guard Lornean Keeler, a senior guard for the Mustangs, led the team in scoring with 19 points. Additionally, senior forward Kristina Santiago scored 17 points, making her the second-leading scorer in the conference.

“The Mustangs suffered a loss to UC Riverside on Saturday, Feb. 13. They’re the first time our team has played the Mustangs and we won’t lose at home to UC Riverside,” sophomore guard Ashley Burman said. “We didn’t play to our potential. That loss made it that much more difficult because we have to win from here out to hold on to that spot.”

The team came back for a 58-51 home victory against UC Riverside on Saturday, Feb. 13.

“Against Davis and Pacific, we shot the ball out of this world,” Nakamoto said. “Against Riverside, we only shot 32 percent from the field. We still managed to win, which shows the value of rebounding and tough defense. It showed the girl’s outer shell, even when shots aren’t falling we can still grind out a game win.”

UC Riverside’s scoring average of 51 points was the second-lowest total for a Mustang opponent this season.

“It’s all about the little things that people do on our team,” Santiago said. “It’s not just me scoring 20 points or someone else getting 10 assists; lots of players have stepped up.”

On the women’s side, freshman Angie Haven has provisionally qualified in the 100 meter and 200 meter breaststroke.

Haven has broken four school records this season in the 100 breaststroke, 100 backstroke, 200 breaststroke and 200 IM. She also owns the conference record for the 100 breaststroke, 200 breaststroke and 200 IM. She is responsible for the conference best time in the 100 breaststroke, 200 breaststroke and 200 IM.

Coach Milich is happy with the progress that his team has made this season and said his swimmers will be ready to give it their all this week.

“It’s been a great year for us. We’re already had (three) kids make NCAA B standards; two of