Poly alum recognized for engineering lab

John McCullough

Cal Poly alum John Monett recently received national recognition for creating and funding Cal Poly's prosthetics lab.

Last March, Monett donated $100,000 to the engineering department after learning of the department's desire to increase the number of multidisciplinary projects available to engineering students while he was serving on the dean's advisory board. The funding founded the Quality of Life (QL+) laboratory, the first of the QL+ organization Monett founded with the proceeds from the sale of his old company, Telemus Solutions.

"Our labs are very expensive," Butler said. "In general, engineering students need to research and develop prosthetics and other assistive devices for amputees injured while serving in the U.S., military, U.S. intelligence and law enforcement services.

Monett, a resident of McLean, Va., graduated Cal Poly in 1964 with a degree in industrial engineering.

"I remain extremely proud of receiving my industrial engineering degree from Cal Poly, consistently one of the top engineering schools in the U.S., if not the world," Monett said. "Also, Cal Poly's College of Engineering requires a senior project as a requirement — not every university's engineering program requires a practical application. Luckily, Cal Poly has afforded me the path to a successful career and a rewarding life. I have reached the point in my life where I want to give back — especially to those Americans who are serving our country."

The QL+ lab offers Cal Poly students life lessons that can't be found in a textbook, such as understanding how innovation can help a group of individuals, he added.

Monett, along with Cal Poly engineering students, appeared in a video called "Improving Lives" that was sent to members of the United States Automobile Association (USAA). QL+ was one of two nonprofit organizations featured in the video portion of the USAA Annual Report for "doing the right thing.

"Doing the right thing is not that easy to explain. I did not really think about creating an organization focused on 'doing the right thing,' rather I wanted to get an example," Monett said. "I wanted to show my appreciation for creating and funding Cal Poly engineering students.

Biomedical engineering graduate student Nicholas Butler works in the on-campus lab. "Our sponsor, John Monett, opened the doors to go in any direction with our projects," Butler said. "Sometimes the need is for a specific person; sometimes it's for many people. Our team is doing a prosthetic hand; another group is doing a wheelchair that goes off-road. We think we can design our hand for under $5,000.

Electrical engineering senior Sean Tolbudsaid the grants that allow the lab to run are important to Cal Poly engineers. "Our labs are very expensive," Tolbo said. "In general, engineers use our private grant money really well. Because of the nature of our labs we can't function off of state money alone so we have to utilize opportunities like these."

Butler said he enjoys working with the QL+ lab, page 2

Jamba Juice 20th anniversary celebration began yesterday

Jamba Juice will be offering a buy-one-get-one-free coupon on their Web site good until April 25 to commemorate the company's 20th anniversary. Cal Poly graduate Kirk Perron started the business that was originally named Juice Club in 1990 to offer fresh fruit drinks to San Luis Obispo residents and fellow Cal Poly students. Today, the company has grown from the original shop located on Foothill and Chorro Street to more than 350 stores throughout the country. The original Jamba Juice on Foothill and Charter Street will give a free anniversary mug to the first 120 people who visit the store and will be handing out free drinks from 2 to 5 p.m. next Monday, April 19.

RPTA department publishes info on Californians’ rec habits

The recreation, parks and tourism administration (RPTA) department recently helped produce the latest California State Parks survey on the outdoor recreation habits of California residents.

Several RPTA faculty members and Cal Poly students worked for nearly three years on the "California Opinions and Attitudes Survey on Outdoor Recreation."

The survey includes the opinions of more than 3,000 California residents on recreation topics like the kind of outdoor activities that they would like to do more and how much they would pay for these activities. The goal of the research is to influence state policy decisions about park management and recreation programs for the next five years to reflect the changing attitudes of Californians.

RPTA department head Bill Hendricks served as the project coordinator. Martin Goldman, Jerusha Greenwood and Jeff Jacobs also participated by overseeing focus groups that asked California youth questions about their outdoor activities. "I hope the results published will help to improve recreation facilities across California," Hendricks said. "The results of this research will be used to guide funding for the next five years." Smith said.

Hendricks said this year's survey revealed that most of California's youth are primarily interested in specialized outdoor activities, such as snowboarding or horseback riding. This year's survey also included a physical activity component, which measured the levels of physical activity done by Californians on a "light, moderate, or heavy" scale. The survey also included a physical activity component, which measured the levels of physical activity done by Californians on a "light, moderate, or heavy" scale. The survey found that most California adults exercised at light or moderate levels.

The RPTA department was aided in its survey research by grants from several outside agencies. The California Agricultural Research Initiative.

see Recreation, page 2

To appropriately distribute land and conservation funds to institutions around the state, we have to know the attitudes of citizens and what changes they would like to see. The results of this research will be used to guide funding for the next five years," Smith said.
Lab (continued from page 1)

on this project, and while there currently isn't much work being done in the field of prosthetics, he wishes to continue the work he began at Cal Poly. "The most rewarding part for us is that our projects immediately improve the lives of the people that our projects go to. We really do improve the quality of life for these people," Butler said.

Recreation (continued from page 1)

"We awarded about $122,000 to Cal Poly this year, but we must confirm that any intended projects follow our guidelines for forestry research before the money is used. Cal Poly is extremely efficient in producing valuable results with our grants — even more so than schools that are granted more money from us," Blanche said.

Several Cal Poly graduate students were also involved in producing the survey by assisting faculty in running the focus groups. Recent graduate of the Agriculture Master's program Jason Cummings participated in several of the focus groups around California.

"We went to community centers to ask kids about their experiences with outdoor recreation, and the answers we got were used to decide what would go in the finished project," Cummings said some of the responses he received from the young people were surprising. "Many of the kids in areas around L.A. said they didn't feel safe in parks near their homes. I hope this report can help change that."

The complete results of the survey can be viewed online at www.parks.ca.gov/planning_SPOA.
Cuba claims to have around one million excess jobs, according to Raul Castro

Juan O. Tamayo
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — The stunning figure was revealed by Cuban leader Raul Castro himself: The Cuban government and its enterprises might have more than one million excess workers on their payrolls.

That's more than one million unproductive workers, out of what official Cuban figures show is a total of 4.9 million people working in formal jobs in a country of 11.2 million people.

And that's part of the explanation, several economists said, for a calamitously over-centralized and unproductive economy that, for example, forces the tropical island to import an estimated 60 percent of the food its people consume. The Cuban government has historically insisted on keeping people officially employed, even in unproductive jobs. Unemployment was last reported at 1.6 percent by the National Statistics Office.

About 95 percent of the jobs in Cuba's formal sector are with the government — ministries, their agencies and enterprises — though salaries are so low, averaging about $20 a month, nationwide, that many Cubans also have off-the-books work to make ends meet.

But the figures on excess jobs in the government and its enterprises mentioned by Raul Castro surprised even some Cuban economists.

"We know there's an excess of hundreds of thousands of workers in the budgeted and enterprise sectors (and) some analysts calculate that the excess of jobs is more than one million," he said Sunday in a speech to the Cuban Communist Youth.

"There are inflated payrolls, very inflated payrolls, terribly inflated payrolls," Castro said before adding a reassurance: "The revolution will not forsake anyone. I will fight to create the conditions so that all Cubans have honorable jobs."

It was not the first time that Cuban officials have publicly acknowledged the government has far too many employees. The commerce and restaurant sectors alone in Cienfuegos, Cuba's smallest province, have 1,400 too many employees, according to a recent report in the newspaper Trabajadores, run by the government-controlled Cuban Confederation of Workers, or CTC.

The province's education sector also is overstaffed by 1,825, and the sports sector by 500, the newspaper added, quoting Marlen Jimenez, a provincial official of the CTC.

What's more, public health facilities like hospitals and clinics in

see Castro, page 4
State
SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — Arroyo Grande City Councilman Ed Arnold is now facing two charges of child pornography after investigators allegedly found pictures of underage girls and a video showing a teenage foreign exchange student showering in his home.

Investigators executed a search warrant Jan. 4 at Arnold's residence in Pismo Beach and found "several still images" of young girls, according to documents filed by the District Attorney's Office.

In the same search, police found a video of a naked girl showering that police believe was taken with a hidden camera in the ceiling.

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — Co-nan O'Brien is going to cable.

The former host of NBC's "Tonight Show," who lost the program to Jay Leno earlier this year, has signed a deal for a new late-night program on TBs, the basic cable network owned by Time Warner.

"I'm headed to basic cable. My plan is to KPupies that slot, will have his show network television to Pwitter to per­

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WASHINGTON (MCT) — A group of economists on Monday said that it was too soon to know when the U.S. recession had end­ed, a technical ruling that has more than academic interest in this mid­term election year.

In a statement published on its Web site, the National Bureau of Economic Research said that the usual indicators showed the economy was improving, but that it was too soon to put a date on when the recession ended.

CONNECTICUT (MCT) — The state Supreme Court on Mon­day dealt another appellate defeat to convicted killer Michael Skakel, rejecting his claim that he deserves a new trial on the charge that he beat his 15-year-old Greenwich neighbor Martha Moxley to death with a golf club in 1975.

Skakel's lawyers, Hubert Santos and Hope Sedley, based their new trial argument on claims of prior judicial error and assertions that they had unearthed new evidence pointing to other suspects.

Skakel was 15 — as was Moxley — on Oct. 30, 1975, the night he is accused of killing her. He was ar­rested and charged with murder on Jan. 19, 2000, and convicted by a jury after a monthlong trial.

Skakel is related to the Kennedy family by marriage.

CASTRO: Still facing page 3

 eastern Gambia province alone have 3,000 unannounced employees, the newspaper quoted Luis Munoz, a member of the CCT's provincial secretary, as saying.

"All will remain in their jobs, but depending on the possibilities, many will be reassigned to useful and productive jobs," the newspa­per noted. "Cuba will never resort to the easy and inhumane formulas of neoliberalism, based on massive dislo­cation."

Gary Maybarduk, who served as counselor for political and eco­nomics at the U.S. diplomat­ic mission in Havana from 1997-1999, said Castro's comments indicate that he's aware of the mas­ sive problems facing an economy battered by the global crisis, three hurricanes and its own massive in­efficiencies.

The government is beginning to realize its problems, but is not ready to do anything about it yet because it has neither the capital nor the physical means to create significant numbers of new jobs," he said.

"It indicates an incapacity to generate productive jobs that is typical of the Olympic, Guinness Book of Re­cords," said Jorge Sanchez­fuerte, director of the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy.

"But that's the Cuban govern­ment's problem since 1962."

"And that's why underemploy­ment is ridiculously high there," said Archival Ritter, a professor at Carleton University in Ottawa who specializes in the Cuban economy.

Many day-care centers and even some two-star hotels in Cuba have their own nurses and doctors — not on call, but full time, Ritter said in a telephone interview.

What's more, when the govern­ment shut down more than 70 sug­

Schools out, body found at elementary school

Jennifer Squires
SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

BOULDER CREEK, Calif. — A school employee found a dead body on an outdoor, second-story balcony at Boulder Creek Elementary School on Monday morning, a district official said, and the school was closed. At least one school employee determined what happened.

The teacher found a white man in his 30s or 40s dead around 7:10 a.m. and called 911, according to Boulder Creek Volunteer Fire District Fire Chief Kevin McClus.

"He basically got there, saw he was deceased and waited for the sher­iffs to show up," he said.

Deputies were at the school to investigate Monday morning. Blood was found at the scene, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"It's suspicious," Sgt. Dan Cam­pus said. "Everything is suspicious until we know what went on."

Information about the man's identity and how he died has not been released. It also wasn't immediately clear how long the man had been on the balcony.

It's standard procedure for detec­tives to investigate deaths that occur on the premises of a medical professional.

Steve Burley, director of mainte­nance for Boulder CreekElemen­tary School, said the teachers went into a staff meeting with the school superintendent after the body was found. He said the teacher who found the dead man "was shaken up."

The dead man was not a school employee, according to sheriff's Sgt. Bill Rule.

Students were on spring break last week: Monday was supposed to be their first day back April 2.

Some school staff had been on campus during the vacation, said Julie Haff, superintendent of San Lorenzo Valley Unified School Dis­trict, who referred further questions to the Sheriff's Office.

The balcony is accessible without a key or a pass code. It is a stand­ing classroom facility toward the rear of the school, McClus said.

The school has about 500 students, is in Boulder Creek, in Santa Cruz County.

Second grader Neal Fleck, 7, came to school with his dad and sister to find the campus closed. Fleck said he didn't know why class was can­celed, but was happy to have spring break stretch a day longer.

School is planned to be in session on Tuesday, Haff said.
Is the recession over?
Economists aren’t sure

Kevin G. Hall

WASHINGTON — Most mainstream economists think the nation’s deep recession is over, but a special body that makes such a determination took a pass Monday, saying what many Americans intuitively feel, that the data remain inconclusive.

The National Bureau of Economic Research, a nonprofit group of economists, determines when recessions start and end as part of its work in calculating the peaks and troughs of the business cycle.

The bureau’s Business Cycle Dating Committee met last Friday and concluded that the jury is still out on the recession’s end, announcing that decision on its Web site Monday.

The committee reaffirmed that the recession began in December 2007, but its seven members couldn’t determine whether the recession has ended.

“The trough date would identify the end of contraction and the beginning of expansion. Although most indicators have turned up, the committee decided that the determination of the trough date on the basis of current data would be premature,” the committee said in a statement. “Many indicators are quite temporary at this time and will be revised in coming months.”

The recession is based on a cautious view — the stubbornly high jobless rate.

Unemployment remains stuck in the ballpark of 9.7 percent. March employment numbers finally showed a solid gain of 162,000 jobs, partly aided through government hiring to conduct the 2010 Census.

Although economic expansion usually is marked by two consecutive quarters of growth, the committee wants to see more evidence of strong and consistent job growth as an indicator that businesses are hiring on the basis of a firming economy.

“We will be ready to assign a particular month to the date of the trough when data revisions have settled down and the expansion has continued to the point where a sudden reversal would constitute a new recession and not a continuation of the one that started in December 2007,” Robert Hall, a Stanford University economist and the chairman of the bureau’s committee, told McClatchy Newspapers. “If current forecasts hold, that time will come in a matter of months.”

Hall was optimistic, however, that the economy is on the mend.

“In my personal view — not in my capacity as chair of the committee — I’d say that despite the fact that the contraction was the deepest by all measures since the Great Depression, the pattern of the recovery, so far, is not terribly different from earlier recessions,” he said.

What’s different this time, however, is the record numbers of long-term unemployed. Some 15 million Americans are unemployed, 6.5 million of them for half a year or longer. A full 16.9 percent of the work force is either jobless, working part time because full-time work isn’t available or wants to work but hasn’t looked in the past month because of bleak conditions.

It’s why a sluggish recovery still leaves fear about a possible dip back into recession late this year.

“The question is, are businesses going to feel confident enough — that they think the recovery is firmly in place and therefore they’re going to want to hire? And will they have access to credit to do so?” asked Gus Faucher, the director of macroeconomics for Moody’s Economy.com, a forecaster in West Chester, Pa.

The Obama administration, stung by an overly optimistic unemployment forecast last year, maintained a cautious view.

“We will leave it to outside economists to determine whether the recession is over in technical terms, but for the millions of Americans still struggling, the president will continue to push for policies that lay the groundwork for businesses to grow and for American families to get back on their feet,” said Amy Brundage, a White House spokeswoman.

The president of the National Bureau of Economic Research, James Poterba, cautioned in an interview that the committee’s work only marks turning points and doesn’t capture what ordinary Americans are feeling.

“Recovery and recession are about directions up or down. You can be moving up from a low base and moving down from a high plateau,” he said.

A decision on putting a firm date on the recession’s end is expected in coming months as more reliable economic data come in, Poterba said.
Pride Center to host documentary for Day of Silence Wednesday night

Kelly Cooper

The Cal Poly Pride Center Allies will be showing the 2009 documentary "Outrage" on Wednesday. The film, which exposes closeted gay politicians who actively campaign for anti-gay legislation, is being held in honor of Day of Silence.

Held this year on April 16, Day of Silence involves high school and college-aged students taking a vow of silence to address the problem of anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, ally) behavior, such as vocal and physical harassment. Beginning in 1996, it has grown into the largest student-based campaign to bring attention to LGBT issues. But because some students are unable to participate, the Pride Center is showing the film in honor of the event.

Student-coordinator for the Pride Center and physics senior Brandon Boswell, who organized the event, expects a crowd of about 50 and said the film will help depict LGBT issues on campus as well as in government.

"These are your politicians, and they're still in office right now. And there's probably still many more that are closeted that we don't even know about," Boswell said. "I think it speaks not just about gay rights, but about politicians that are voting just to appease certain people."

Boswell said the film will be a good supplement for those who support Day of Silence, not only because participating may not be feasible, but because it's harder to make a statement on a college campus of 20,000 students compared to a high school body of 2,000.

"It's mainly held at high school level. It's not very prevalent because there's probably still many more that are closeted that we don't even know about," Boswell said. "I think it speaks not just about gay rights, but about politicians that are voting just to appease certain people."

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Rectal exams and sex share a common bond

Sometimes in life, it's OK to be selfish. At a recent doctor's visit, the physician asked me whether I'd prefer to give a urine sample or have my rectum swabbed to check for syphilis. Unfortunately for me, the physician's assistant who was asking me which method I'd prefer was charming. We already struck up a lively conversation about how frequently I should be having routine STI checks, and also briefly talked men. We seemed to be getting along fine. As a health care provider, I'd give her two thumbs up for bedside manner.

The problem was that I chose to give a urine sample, but for the wrong reasons. I liked this woman, and didn't want to do anything that would affect our "friendship." I'm sure she would give a urine sample or have my physician asked me whether I'd prefer to have sex. When I decide, the people from (most) animals. When it comes to sex, someone who, as part of her job, tells you dinner, and although you could see this person every day, you might feel a little selfish for wanting to have your cake and not eat it too.

There are many reasons why refusal could be difficult. You could see this person every day, you could work together or they could know your parents. They could be the nicest person in the world, or they could have just been really nice that night. They could have bought you dinner, and although you know that you're not obligated, you might feel a little selfish for wanting to have your cake and not eat it too.

There are many reasons why you should refuse sex: If you or your partner have a disease, the protection you're using won't stop the spreading of any disease, if the other person is under 18 and you're not aware of this, or if you don't want to be pregnant. While this protects me from being a rapist, or any of other type of asshole, it doesn't always result in what's best for me. I've been known to have sex when I didn't actually want to, but the other person did. Whether I have nothing better to do, or whether I don't want to make a scene, sometimes things happen. Sometimes, I later wonder whether it was a good idea or not.

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The fact that other people's feelings are important to us is what separates people from (most) animals. When it originated in us, the human race gained the power of community, since we were now driven to not fight amongst ourselves. When making a decision, we weigh the benefits versus the hardships they would cause others.

The same process exists in the decision to have sex. When I decide, the other person's feelings count for something. While this protects me from being a rapist, or any of other type of asshole, it doesn't always result in what's best for me.
The more blood, the more chainsaws, the better. The studios have so delivered the tastes of kids that that's all the kids want now.
—William Peter Blatty
Scrabble should keep with tradition

The longer I'm alive, the more I love Scrabble. Whether playing with my family or with good friends, I always have a good time. Plus, it consistently provides me with a good challenge, whether it's beating an accomplished foe or topping my best personal score.

When it comes to the game, I'm pretty traditional. I don't like using a dictionary for help and get frustrated when time constraints or a difficult board preclude a correct finish to a game.

So you can imagine my weeping and gnashing of teeth when officials announced last week that the new version of the game will allow for the use of proper nouns in regular play. This sends the 80-year-tradition of allowing only common nouns, in addition to words that make up the other parts of speech, up in smoke.

After searching the Mustang Daily's wire service for a report of proper nouns in regular play. I his Nonagram of the game will allow for the use of proper nouns in regular play. This sends the 80-year-tradition of allowing only common nouns, in addition to words that make up the other parts of speech, up in smoke.

Mandates officials say the reason for the rule change is to encourage younger people to enjoy the game and to increase sales, which are lower than in years past. However, the term "younger people" might be as well replaced with the harder "dumber people." Instead of digging deep into intelligences honed by reading and critical thinking, Mandates assume the youth of today would prefer the cop-out method of naming any proper noun that comes to mind or, better yet, they happen upon something lying around the room when playing.

And when I say any proper noun that comes to mind, that's exactly what I mean. As far as what is acceptable, the rules will lie with the players. Unlike the current rules, which feature official word lists, the most popular being the Tournament Word List (TWL), there will be no official inventory of acceptable people, place, or things, that's exactly what I mean.

This might be too much to keep up with. If Scrabble keeps evolving to keep up with all these new rules, the next thing we know is that point destinies.

And I don't know what I'd do without counting on a 10-point Z or Q at the end of a game that finally blow to my valiant opponent. I can imagine a world with 10-point Es or two-point Ks. And I don't think I'd do without counting on a 10-point Z or Q at the end of a game that finally blow to my valiant opponent.

Seemingly, mandates keep the old rules, and don't release a dumbed-down version of my favorite game. This change will set an awful precedent in the already-precarious Scrabble world. And Scrabble lovers, do your part and play the right word on the right side of a beacon of stability and smartness in our already questionable culture.

Emilie Egger is a history and English writer and Mustang Daily editor-in-chief.
spread her high school career out to five years. She'd leave class around 1:30 every day to go practice tennis for three to four hours.

That same discipline has carried over to her work at Cal Poly. While balancing the demands of intercollegiate sports and maintaining a 3.8 cumulative grade point average might seem overwhelming for some students, Wong seems to take it in stride.

"Sometimes she's come to practice and you can tell she's a little worn around the edges," head coach Hugh Bream said. "But she never once complained or used that as an excuse."

Wong said, while she does get tired sometimes, she doesn't regret her major.

"I think it challenged me for the last four years a lot," she said. According to history freshman and Wong's doubles partner, Alexa Lee, Wong's success in both school and athletics is unusual.

"I know that when her professors find out that she's an athlete, they are amazed at how well she does on and off the court, because biomedical engineering takes up so many hours," Lee said. "The College of Engineering is one of the most competitive at Cal Poly."

Wong explained that she likes setting challenges for herself.

"Obviously it's a tough major, but I just had to stick it through," Wong said. "And that's just helped me with life in general. There's always going to be things you don't want to do."

That isn't to say that it's always easy for her, either. Wong said, while she used to drink black tea a lot, lately she's come to appreciate something with a little more caffeine.

"First thing I do (in the morning) is turn on my coffee maker," Wong said. "I guess I'm addicted. I try to get the Costco brand because I drink so much of it."

Despite a busy schedule, Wong does take time off to hang out with friends or sometimes even watch a little television.

"My guilty pleasure is 'The Bachelor,'" Wong said. "It's embarrassing. But I haven't been able to stop watching it."

Wong added she also likes watching sports like basketball and, of course, tennis. As for post-graduation plans, Wong said she's a little nervous.

"I'm not sure what I want to do afterwards, if I keep going to more school or look for a job," she said. "Hopefully, this summer I can figure it out. I think I'm going to stop tennis for a little bit just to figure everything out."

Matsui continued from page 12

who followed him to California that was presented to all the Yankees during last fall's World Series victory parade. Tuesday, he will share one last big moment with the Yankees, receiving his world championship ring. Girardi said he expected Yankees fans to be "extremely loud and thankful" in their greeting.

"To me," Girardi said, "it's going to be good to see him and give him his ring, as well, because he deserved it. But that's the way this game is. You build relationships with players, coaches and managers, but things change. Not the way you feel about them, but things change."

And Matsui clearly has crossed over to the other side.

"I'm going to put my head down and focus on the mitt," today's Yankees starting pitcher, Andy Pettitte, said of facing Matsui for the first time. "Try to make him feel uncomfortable. Try to get him out. He's obviously a great player, a thrill to play with. I'll be good to see him in the days after I pitch. Not (Tuesday), that's for sure."

The words used by the handful of Yankees, in describing the scene for the home opener, were "weird" and "strange." Pettitte noted how the old stadium next door is mostly vanished. "It's gone and it's not going back up," he said.

While Matsui, on the other hand, is back.
Senior Steffi Wong isn’t afraid of a little challenge

Aimee Vasquez
AIMEEVASQ-Z@MUHNGMAIL.COM

When senior Steffi Wong was 4 years old, a neighbor found her wandering down the road near her home in rural Canada. Wong’s mother, Lily, said she came home to find the house quiet and the children supposedly napping.

“I think I try to challenge myself as much as possible ... because I think it will help me grow up.”

—Steffi Wong
Women’s tennis senior

“And then the doorbell rings and my neighbor comes up and asks me, ‘Does your daughter have pigtails?’” she said.

On that particular day, the young Wong woke up from her nap and decided to explore. Unbeknownst to her grandmother and nanny, she climbed out of the crib, opened the garage door and started wandering the neighborhood in shorts and bare feet.

Eighteen years later, she may have lost the pigtails, but Wong is still independent. When she decided to come to Cal Poly, the school was about as far as she could get from her home. Now, as a senior, she’s helped her team earn a No. 58 national ranking on the women’s tennis circuit.

“I think I try to challenge myself as much as possible,” Wong said. “Because I think it will help me grow.”

She added this is one of the reasons she moved all the way to California.

When she was about 10 years old, she caught the attention of Canadian coach Casey Cairns.

“She was willing to work really hard, because at the time there was a coach that was willing to take her on,” Lily Wong said. “But he wouldn’t just take anyone.”

Even at that young age, Wong showed a propensity for the game. But in order to pursue it, she had to sacrifice a lot. For example, in high school, Wong would go to bed at 9 on Friday nights before tournaments.

See Wong, page 11

Hideki Matsui is back in New York, wearing Angels colors

John Jeansonne

Though there remains no definitive evidence that ghosts from the original Yankee Stadium have followed the team across the street to its new palace, a family’s soul most certainly will reappear Tuesday, possibly haunting his former mates in their 2010 home opener.

And seeing Hideki Matsui dressed in the garb of a celestial being, a member of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim after his seven thoroughly professional seasons with the New York Yankees of the Bronx, will be a bit spooky.

“It’s going to be strange,” Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. “All we know is him in pinstripes. He’s probably going to look kind of funny in red.”

“I saw a picture of him in spring training,” outfielder Brett Gardner said, “and saw him on TV the other day. It didn’t seem quite right.”

Matsui still will be wearing No. 55. He still will be twitching his right elbow, waiting in the batter’s box, threatening the sort of offensive impact that earned him the MVP award in last year’s World Series. When he hit an otherworldly home run, the Japanese media still will follow his exploits, as they did when he was a Yankee. Reporters from Japan, Horie said, generally spend 25 to 30 reporters and five BBs. After his first six games on the West Coast, he is batting a robust .417, with two home runs and five RBIs. Matsui already has a $100, gold-plated key to New York City (as does his translator, Roger Kohn).

The large contingent of Japanese media still will follow his every move. Shingo Horie of Japan’s NHK broadcast network estimated that easily 25 to 30 reporters and cameramen are chronicling his Angels exploits, as they did when he was a Yankee. Reporters from Japan, Horie said, generally spend three years on the Matsui beat, relocating to the United States from spring training through the World Series.

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After playing seven seasons in the Bronx, Hideki Matsui (above) will return to Yankee stadium — just wearing a different jersey.

RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Steffi Wong (above) has been an instrumental part of her team’s success this year. This season the Mustangs have a (13-5) record.