John McCullough
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Cal Poly alum Jon 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, Telenus Solutions.

"Our labs are very expensive," Butler said. "Sometimes the need is for 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 Tolibas said the grants that allow the lab to run are important to Cal Poly engineers.

"Our labs are very expensive," Tolibas 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 for the men and women who, in the course of serving their country, have been wounded and/or disabled. But he also wanted to create a unique practical environment for Cal Poly engineering students.

Biomedical engineering graduate student Nicholas Butler works in the on-campus lab.

"Our sponsor, Jon 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."

John Monett
Chair of QL+ laboratory on campus

The life lessons are longer-lasting for these Cal Poly students than anything else they learn in the classroom and in textbooks.

"The lab allows Cal Poly engineering students 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. Lastly, 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 understand-
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 surrounding LA 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.

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.
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 1,625, 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
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.

It's standard procedure for detectives to investigate deaths that occur on school grounds while Sheriffs Office detectives determine what happened. The teacher who referred further questions to the school employee found a dead body on an outdoor, second-story balcony in Santa Cruz County. The Sheriffs Office detectives determine what happened. The teacher who referred further questions to the school employee found a dead body on an outdoor, second-story balcony.

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Limit one per customer per day. Offer ends April 16, 2010 and good at Campus Dining locations only. Visit Starbuck's in the UU for details.
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 preliminary at this time and will be revised in coming months." The concern for a cautious view is the stubbornly high jobless rate.

Unemployment remains at an all-time high and 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.

CAL POLY SCIENCE CAFE PRESENTS
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Avoid Burnout

www.mustangdaily.net
Pride Center to host documentary for Day of Silence Wednesday night

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-LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, ally) behavior, such as vocal and physical harassments. Beginning in 1996, it has grown into the largest student-based campaign bringing attention to LGBTQ 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 LGBTQ 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 it's more difficult to do without speaking, especially around people who are not aware of the event."

"In college, often times the people that you work with or have class with are people that you've only seen a couple quarters, or had just met out of the purpose of taking that class," Boswell said. "You don't have enough of a connection to rely on non-verbal communication to get your point across."

However, participation is not entirely impractical at the college level. Journalism sophomore Ebony Chetto said.

"I probably will talk to them or write them an e-mail before. Usually the professors are cordial with this event, and I'm really excited to participate. And the more people who do it, the bigger impact it will have," Chetto said.

Whether students participate, the film will be a way to look into LGBTQ issues. Boswell discovered the film after the Pride Center showed a film in February 2008 by the same director, Kirby Dick. The film, titled "This Film is Not Yet Rated," addresses censorship and movie ratings.

"It was about films that got rated 'R' or 'NC-17' for seemingly ambiguous standards," Boswell said. 

After viewing the film a few weeks ago, Boswell said it was a suitable film to show because of its intimate look into the personal lives of closeted gay politicians and their adamant campaigns against pro-LGBTQ legislation.

"It was more about hypocrisy more than it was about politics," Boswell said. "It was pretty eye-opening to see how closeted some of these politicians are and voting against things that they should supposedly support."

The film not only focuses on the scandals of closeted politicians such as Idaho senator Larry Craig and Florida governor Charlie Crist, but also openly gay politicians such as congressman Barney Frank and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin.

Thus, the documentary intends to provide an unbiased look at homosexuality in politics.
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. Fortunately for me, the physician, an 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 have been professional, but in my mind, exposing myself to this woman would have ruined her day. This was someone who, as part of her job, tells people they have HIV. And I was worried that performing medical tests on my (most likely healthy) ass would make her uncomfortable. Worried enough to not get a test that might conceivably have saved my life.

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 weighed the benefits versus the hardships they would cause others.

The same process exists in the decision to have sex. When I decided, 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.

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.

There could be 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 drunk or for some other reason could not be thinking clearly, if they are your cousin or if you don't feel like it. It is safer to not have sex if you're even a little unsure. It's easier said than done, but while you might miss out on sex, sex may be worse.

see Sex, page 8

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Beach cleanup and after party honoring Earth Day planned for Saturday

Dave Meyers

An Avila Beach cleanup will feature more than people picking up trash.

The event, held in light of National Earth Day, is sponsored by the local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, Firestone Walker Brewing and Nectar Ales. Mr. Rick's Beach Bar and Night Club is also collaborating on the event and will host an after-party, featuring local reggae band The Kicks and DJ Shaggy this Saturday.

"Sounds like a righteous beach cleanup," said local surfer and Cal Poly nutrition senior Lindsey Mitchell after hearing about the event.

The event will not only leave one of the most popular local beaches clean, but also further environmental efforts by the Surfrider Foundation.

The San Luis Bay Surfrider Foundation is a local branch of a nonprofit international group that helps to protect the world's oceans. They have been working to protect and maintain the quality of Central California oceans and beaches for more than 25 years.

The beach cleanup is open to all who would like to participate and will begin at 10 a.m. at the Avila Pier.

Evan Dyer, a representative from Firestone Walker and Nectar Ales, said he is excited about another opportunity to support a local environmental cause.

The Avila Beach cleanup is being held in light of Earth Day. The cleanup and after party is open to anyone who wants to participate. It is an increasingly popular band who deliver a soulful blend of roots-reggae, jazz and ska music. "It's going to be a fun one," kicks lead guitarist Mike Claire said. "Anything we can to support a good cause, especially locally, we jump on the opportunity. With many of our band members being surfers, we definitely love what the Surfrider Foundation does."

All the members of the six-piece band are Cal Poly alumni and the majority of them met in the dorms their freshman year. Most of the them lived in a house together their second year, where they played music nightly and established the foundation for what would become The Kicks.

"We just started jamming together regularly and having a great time," Claire said. "That's where the name The Kicks comes from; we just jammed for kicks."
"Exorcist" author brings philosophy and thrill to new novel

Nick Owchar

In the annals of demonology, William Peter Blatty falls somewhere between St. Augustine and Josse de la Brocque. He isn't the first person who ever written about demons and demonic possession, but he has provided us with one of the genre's most memorable novels, 1973's "The Exorcist." There had been disturbing stories before; but nothing — especially when Blatty teamed up with director William Friedkin for the 1973 screen adaptation — so terrified audiences about the possibilities of the demonic in ordinary people's lives.

For Blatty, though, the story's success remains beyond his wildest expectations.

"I doubted that I was writing just a one-shot," the 82-year-old author said in a recent phone interview from his Maryland home. "At the time, comedy writing was over for me, and nobody would hire me to write anything dramatic. What I had left to write was the idea for 'The Exorcist.' I never imagined what would happen."

What happened was a mega-best-seller: More than 15 million copies, according to some estimates, have been sold in the United States alone. Several more novels — and films — followed, giving Blatty more opportunities to explore the workings of divine redemption and demonic evil. His new novel, "Dimiter," published this month, is similarly pre-occupied with good and evil, with the mysterious and the miraculous, although it is also something of a departure.

"In the 1970s," Blatty said, "'Dimiter' introduces us, in a riveting opening scene, to an enigmatic inmate in an Albanian prison during the gray days of Enver Hoxha's regime. The man coolly withstands unbearable torture and then escapes, vanishing like a phantom ... only to later turn up in the Holy Land. He becomes a shadowy presence in the lives of several people, including an Arab Christian policeman and a Jewish doctor, both of whom puzzle over several mysterious deaths somehow linked to this figure, who is named Paul Dimiter.

"If you look more closely, the story also makes a sly, theological nod to the essential mystery of the Gospel that Christians everywhere celebrated on Sunday: the Resurrection. Blatty has taken a message of religious faith and clothed it in a fast-paced plot for a basic reason. "I had to make a page-turner," he says. "Or else who would want to read it?"

The demonic is a hot commodity today, but don't try to credit Blatty as the elder statesman of this surge in horror movies, books and TV shows. He hasn't part of it.

"When I look around the culture, it makes me want to vomit," he says, recalling that infamous moment in "The Exorcist." "The more blood, the more chainsaws, the better. The studios have so debased the tastes of kids that that's all the kids want now."

This might sound strange coming from the author of a novel renowned for its creativity — and harrowing — use of pulse, spinning heads and crucifixes, but Blatty's brand of horror has always been about more than shock effect. Characters wrestle with metaphysical doubts even as the bodies pile up.

For instance, the story's philosophical premise: "Is the demonic the job of the right hand, the absent left hand, or both? Or does it come from something else?"

"That's a very basic religious question," he said. "I don't think I'm on a search for a definitive meaning, but I hope people will think about things."

"I don't think I'm on a search for a definitive meaning, but I hope people will think about things." The author sounds very much like Moses Mays, a truth-seeking neurologist in "Dimiter." Like Blatty, Mays is humbled by the universe's mysteries, especially the conflict between science and faith. Mays sees a glorious complementarity. He marvels at how "in the subatomic world ... electrons, like saints and heroes, appear and disappear in two places at once."

Mays, early morning musing, as he walks the halls of Hadassah Hospital, forms a quiet counterpoint to the tightening circles of intrigue as Dimiter's story slowly comes into focus.

The term of "Dimiter" dates to the filming of "The Exorcist." Blatty recalls sitting in Friedman's face reading in the New York Times about aJoint priest exorcised in Albania for being a Satanist in a prison camp.

From this, the race-archetypal figure of Dimiter started to take shape. Other ideas came along — what story of Saul's conversion into St. Paul, narrative inconsistencies among the four Gospels and the documentary, which has traveled there and conducted countless interviews with doctors and lawyers, and with local police about crime and law procedures, and ways to prevent someone without leaving a trace.

When he was finished, Blatty had a giant stack of notes, typed, single-spaced. But no sense of organization.

"Writing had never been a problem for me," he says. "A comedy novel! I could get it done in six weeks. You need a screenplay? Sure, six weeks. Then 'Dimiter' came along, and took years."

Other projects intervened in the years that followed. When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, Blatty says, he promised to the Virgin Mary, promising to finish the novel if he recovered. He did, but he stalled on his promise — that persisting question of organization again. Then, two years ago, as he and his wife Julie were attending Mass, the book's structure came to him in a flash of insight.

"I felt like I had received a gift," he says. "It was exactly what I had been listening to for so long, in my unconscious all along. Who knows? It's all a mystery."

Mystery — it's everywhere in "Dimiter," which Blatty hopes to bring to the big screen with Friedkin as director. But religion isn't the only medium in which mystery exists — you find it in science and secret intelligence, as well as simpler things, such as the love between friends and family. All of these overlap in "Dimiter," although Blatty insists it isn't necessary to understand every level to appreciate the story. You can read it as just a thriller and that's OK, he says. "If you have faith, though, it might strengthen it a little more. If you're agnostic, it might give you a few clues you never had before. The message is there if you need it."

Documentary
continued from page 6

sexuality in politics. Most people are finding out about the film through word of mouth at Facebook. Cuesta College student Derek Smiting, a member of the Pride Center Alles Facebook group, is especially excited to see the film not only because of the social interaction, but also to see how he presented political issues are affecting the LGBT community.

"I just really want to learn as much as I can about what these politicians are doing and what they're doing," Smiting said. "I mean, they're the ones who are making our laws, so it's important to stay informed."

"Whether attendees hope to gain insight into the deceptive campaigns of elected politicians, look further into LGBT issues, or simply see an interesting documentary, Boswell hopes that all will get something powerful out of the film. "Even if you were someone who, say, didn't support gay rights, you could probably still watch the film and feel that you don't like hypocrisy and you don't support these particular politicians," Boswell said.

The film will be shown at no cost in the University Union, room 220 at 7 p.m. A short discussion will follow the viewing.
Scrabble should keep with tradition

Earth Day celebrates its 40th anniversary

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, was celebrated by more than 20 million Americans across the country, striving to uphold the natural environment as a global issue. That date is seen as the starting point in the environmental movement of the 1970s, as three major pieces of legislation grew from the rise in consciousness across the nation and world, in the Clean Air, Water and Endangered Species Acts. Together, they are seen as the most notable pieces of environmental legislation in the United States history.

Over the years, Earth Day has continued to be a time to reflect back upon the Earth, which we often take for granted. It is a time to look forward with a positive outlook for a brighter future of environmental stewardship, as we collectively share the ability to transform the very essence of our existence.

As we approach the 40th anniversary next Thursday, April 22, the celebration of Earth Day with a call for action is needed. This call is based on a genuine concern for Earth that has never been greater. Here on campus, Earth Day will be marked by a week of student-organized events, including speeches, workshops, and the annual Earth Day Assembly. The event will be held on the campus green, where students will gather to hear from environmental activists and leaders, and learn about ways we can all make a difference. Additionally, Earth Day will be celebrated with a variety of activities on campus, including a Campus Cleanup, a plant sale, and a Film Festival. The theme of this year’s event is “Eco-Efficiency,” and it seeks to promote sustainable practices and reduce our carbon footprint.

In conclusion, let us remember the importance of protecting our planet and taking action to address climate change. Together, we can make a difference and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

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Killa Gorilla during UU hour and a special bike night event. On Friday, Career Services is hosting the 2019 Impact Awards ceremony, which will feature a keynote speaker, Career Services Impact Award recipients, and a reception at the Career Services office. The event is open to all students and faculty, and it is a great opportunity to learn more about the impact of the Career Services department.

For more information about Earth Day or other sustainability events on campus, please visit the Sustainability website or contact the Sustainability office at sustainability@ubc.ca.
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. At the very least, she does not complain about it.

"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."

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."

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
AIMEEVASQUEZ@MUSTANGDAILY.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. Unknown 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 and a 13-5 record, while also graduating with a biomedical engineering degree this spring.

"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 Carris.

"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.

Hideki Matsui is back in New York, wearing Angels colors

John Jeansson
SUNB DAILY

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 familiar soul most certainly will reappear Tuesday, with the New York Yankees of the Angels of Anaheim after his seven dressed in the garb of a celestial being, manager Joe Girardi said. "All original Yankee Stadium have followed the team through the years and are expected to be with them in their new palace, a familiar soul most certainly will reappear Tuesday, with the New York Yankees of the Angels of Anaheim after his seven

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 .615, with three home runs and eight RBIs. After his first six games on the West Coast, he is batting a robust .417, with two home runs and five RBIs.

The large contingent of Japanese media will follow him 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.

Matsui already has a $100, gold-plated key to New York City (as does his translator, Roger Kahn),