Cal Poly dismissed College of Engineering Dean Mohammad Noori last Thursday because of a lack of clarity in the direction of the college, said Robert Koob, provost and vice president for academic affairs. The dismissal came after a number of complaints from and about the college.

"It was more of an internal issue," Koob said. "There was a lack of clarity in our direction."

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The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported that the Diablo Canyon Power Plant met the high standards for safety and security at its annual town hall meeting June 29.

Michael Peck, senior resident inspector at Diablo Canyon, said from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2009, the plant underwent more than 2,700 hours of direct inspection. The NRC also used performance indicators to determine the plant's safety. Performance indicators are a color-coded system ranging from green, a very low safety issue, to red, a high safety issue. White indicates a low to moderate or substantial safety issue. Peck said all performance indicators at Diablo Canyon were green.

All of these findings come in light of the June 22 alert issued due to an accidental discharge of carbon dioxide gas from a fire.
Cal Poly alumni create iPhone app

Alexandria Scott
ALEXANDRA Scott.M@mustangdaily.net

Imagine being able to get Web-wide ratings on restaurants, hotels, cars, electronics, movies or even politicians from your iPhone. Cal Poly alumni Steve Harmon and Tony Harmon (no relation) created a 99-cent iPhone app that assembles information from blogs, news sites, social media and other Web pages and scores them from one to five stars.

The app came out two weeks ago and Apple has already featured it as “New and Noteworthy.” It gives a Web-wide opinion so someone will know whether to buy a service or product, Steve Harmon said.

“Taleee gives you the power to know the opinion of anything; the Web’s opinion is in your hand,” he said.

Taleee, which means “applause” in Hindi, allows users to get Web-wide ratings on restaurants, hotels, cars, electronics, movies – even politicians – from an iPhone.

“Google indexes websites, we index ratings,” Chief Technical Officer Tony Harmon said. “Taleee syndicates data from hundreds of thousands different websites.

There are two ways to get opinions from the application: Users can search the object by entering information manually, or use the barcode scanner to get online opinions on something such as a CD or digital camera.

After receiving the online ratings, Taleee gives the user the option to share the results on Facebook or Twitter. The app also allows for someone to read posted ratings on the product.

“It’s our goal to have everyone benefit from this application,” Tony Harmon said. “Anything that has enough shared opinions will have a rating.”

Taleee gathers its Web-wide information by using innovative Web Sensus technology that the creator calls a “Taleee bot.” The bot “crawls” across Web sites and views online information and data sources. Taleee then uses an algorithm to determine the overall Web-Wide rating for products.

In the case of blogs, the application will look for descriptive words like “love, amazing, fantastic” and then compare the words to the overall word count of the article.

“Taleee is a directory or collection of information — almost like the Yellow Pages,” Steve Harmon said.

Talee plans on making the application available for the Motorola Android and SMS or text messaging, Steve Harmon said. We’re using this as a tool where a person can text Taleee the object’s information and Taleee will reply with the Web-wide rating.

“We want the application to be available to everyone,” Steve Harmon said. “The user would be anyone who wants to buy something or go someplace.”

Taleee is also working with investors from companies like eBay and Thomson Reuters to create funding to expand its mobile services.

“There are 17 million business in the U.S. and 300 million consumers that can benefit from having the Web-wide ratings and opinions on demand,” Steve Harmon said. “Next time you want to buy something, just Taleee it.”

Tony Harmon attended Cal Poly for one year. Steve Harmon got his journalism bachelor’s degree at Cal Poly, then worked for a company that did media research and business consulting around when the Internet sparked in 1994. Steve said.

Cough

continued from page 1

ones in need of the booster shot. Any one 11 years or older should have a tetanus, diphtheria and perussis, or Tdap, booster shot because childhood vaccinations wear of in adults, McDowell said. Out Tdap vaccination as an adult will protect someone for the rest of their life. The Tdap vaccination has no known seri­ous side-effects.

“The best offense (to pertussis) is a strong defense — in this case, having been immunized,” said David Har­ris, MD, head of medical services at Cal Poly.

Harris roughly estimates 10 per­cent of Cal Poly students have no immunity against pertussis or other diseases.

“It’s a very, very difficult situation to keep everybody healthy because you [students] like to share your bugs,” Harris said. “On top of that, you’re stressed, you’re packed like sardines and you can’t afford to stay home and recuperate... so you go to school sick and go on to school sick and go on to school sick and go on to school sick and go on to school sick and go on to school sick.”

Biochemistry junior Doug Amato recalls feeling at risk for illnesses and disease when he lived with 32 other men on one floor of the Sierra Madre dorm two years ago.

“If one person get sick, usually everyone get sick,” Amato said.

Harris said a campus-wide perussis epidemic is unlikely during summer because the students get “out of this packed, heat-like existence.”

In the event of an outbreak, the San Luis Obispo Public Health Services would take over campus health.

Cal Poly Health Center offers the Tdap vaccination for $35; San Luis Obispo Public Health Services charg­es $25. No appointment is needed at either location.
president Petraeus about whether he agreed with reports that some White House officials, including Vice President Joe Biden, favor a steep drawdown, no matter what the conditions in Afghanistan.

"Somebody needs to get itstraight without doubt what the hell we're going to do in Afghan­istan," Graham said.

Petraeus offered a mixed assessment of the progress of the war, predicting that violence would get worse before it got better but assur­ring that the U.S. and its allies have made progress in Helmand province and other areas.

"My sense is that the tough fighting will continue; indeed, it may get more intense in the next few months," Petraeus said. "As we take away the enemy's safe havens and reduce the enemy's freedom of action, the insurgents will fight back."

Petraeus, who was directly in­volved in formulating the current strategy as head of U.S. Central Command, did not signal any im­mediate change of direction in his statement. But he noted that some U.S. soldiers have complained about the "bureaucratic and tacti­cal rules" set by McChrystal aimed at preventing civilian casualties.

While the rules are "basically sound," he said, implied some lower-level commanders may have been overly restrictive in approving airstrikes and other actions aimed at assisting troops in combat.

Some commanders were "mak­ing this more bureaucratic, more restrictive than necessary when our troops and our Afghan partners are in a tough spot," he said. A major challenge he faces will be involving pulling together efforts that sometimes have suffered from poor cooperation between the military and civilians, and between the U.S. and 20 allies including the Afghan government.

"We can achieve such unity of effort because we have to do it here before," he said, referring to his experience in Iraq, during which Pe­traeus enjoyed a close relationship with then-U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

Petraeus said he had spoken three times already with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and held a conference call with U.S. Spe­cial Representative Richard C. Holbrooke, U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry and others in Kabul. He and Eikenberry planned to meet in Brussels this week to brief NATO officials before flying together to Kabul, Petraeus said.

He gave no indication that he would recommend that Obama re­place the civilians running the U.S. effort. Several longtime Petraeus allies are already deeply involved in efforts to improve Afgh­an police and the army.

That effort, Petraeus said, is "now broadly on track, for the first time, to achieve overall improved growth goals and to improve Afgh­an security force quality." But he noted that the Afghan police remain a concern and that "con­siderable work" needs to be done to reduce high attrition rates in the police and "to develop effective leaders."

Not everyone wants the license renewed.

Jane Swanson is a spokesper­son for the non-profit organiza­tion Mothers for Peace, which is fighting the 20-year license renewal.

"We're concerned about the safety of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant and about the environment," Swanson said.

"The plant can withstand an earth­quake up to 7.5 on the Richter scale and is high enough on the coast to avoid tsunami."

"The department chairs are look­ing at all the revenue streams ... and making sure that the intent of those funds are being matched to the ac­tual activities," Smith said. "They're looking at their own budgets com­prehensively and then collectively, justifying each item of budget."

Smith said he is also looking at staffing within the college.

"I'll be making sure the job de­scriptions are appropriate, that the level of personnel is appropriate for what the college is both cur­rently doing and what it needs to do," Smith said.

Matthew Costley, assistant dean for advancement in the College of Engineering, said the change is something the college can easily handle.

"This college is like its own 5,000 person university," Costley said. "We have a comprehensive management structure and, therefore, the college doesn't stop because of the dean's departure."

"By the end of Fall Conference, I want us to have developed a clear plan for the year ahead, identify­ing the tasks we need to do to get ourselves ready for a permanent dean, and also lay the foundations of a strong but adaptable strategic plan," Smith wrote.
Bill Cosby, Steve Martin with a banjo, Chinese acrobats and "Legally Blonde." These are some of the featured shows in next year's lineup at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Director of Cal Poly Arts Steve Lerian said it took about seven months to successfully fill this year's lineup with shows sure to create hype and draw large crowds.

"I get a jigsaw puzzle of artists that we can afford, (artists) people will win a production," he said. While some are repeat visitors to the PAC, this year's shows are potentially more student-friendly.

"This is my second season booking shows and I learned a lot about what people want to see more and less of from the first season," Lerian said. "People don't thirst for old, chestnut Broadway. They need newer shows."

Lerian said he likes to keep Cal Poly students and San Luis Obispo community members in mind when choosing shows. However, booking specifically for students is difficult because they have yet to produce a winning production.

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John Anderson

At a fan convention earlier this month in Los Angeles, newly issued Vampire Xavier Samuel got a taste of "Twilight" mania: "I got to hang out with 2,000 people, answer a few questions, mostly about whether I'd have my shirt off in any scenes." Such is the so-called life of the undead, at least in the world of "Twilight," which involves passion, drama and the frenzied browsing of teenage girls. "I don't know how you prepare for something like that," Samuel said.

Prepare he must. With the regularity of a full moon, another "Twilight" movie is upon us. "Twilight: Eclipse" is the third in the series inspired by the Stephenie Meyer novels and one that addresses such titanic questions as immortality and high school graduation. While Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner all return, respectively, as Bella Swan, Edward Cullen and Jacob Black, they are being joined by a virtual legion of previously unseen characters. While the second film was titled "New Moon," this one, which opened Wednesday, could be called "New Blood" (all puns intended).

In addition to Bryce Dallas Howard, who replaced Rachelle Lefevre as the vampire's new victim, Jodelle Ferland, a native of Victoria, there's Jodelle Ferland, a native of Vancouver (where the film was shot), who plays the so-called life of the undead, Volturi in "New Moon." She reprises her role in "Eclipse." And there's Samuel as Riley, a member of Victoria's newborn army of bloodsuckers, whose strength is his youth. "He's a complex character," said director David Slade and I have really created an incredible world and mythology. She's a good storyteller."

Because the films have been made so quickly, and released accordingly (one about every six months), the audience has remained engaged. "The sense of urgency has been maintained and the actors haven't markedly aged," Samuel said. "It's also been suggested that the transition will be easier for the performers, who won't have been subject as cruelly as they might by a series that went on forever (see "Harry Potter")."

Samuel, for instance, has a flourishing career that needs no impediments. He's just finished Roland Emmerich's "Anonymous," a conspiracy thriller that involves the authorship of Shakespeare's plays, and "The Loved Ones," which he called "a teenage extravaganza" in which "I was strapped to a chair and tortured for the majority of the film."

Although the "Twilight" series was "pretty hard to miss," he said, "I have stood on the plane to Vancouver." It was cuttings, things one might say, pretty close. Still, Samuel got seduced. "I can understand how people can become really attached to the story," he said. "There are all these epic themes of eternal love and the idea that love can cure you. It's intoxicating. As soon as I found out about the role, I went to the bookstore and madly started reading."

The phenomenal "Twilight" series will not be ending with a fourth installment, as originally intended. It will be ending with a fourth, and fifth. Although the producing and opening of the films in the series have been quick and clean — each feature has been released while the next was being shot — "Breaking Dawn," the last in the Stephenie Meyer series of novels, will be broken into two parts for the screen. The first half will be released in November 2011. The fifth movie does not yet have a release date, according to distributor Summit Entertainment.

They will be shot simultaneously, said a Summit spokeswoman, but because of the complexity of the material, will be presented via two separate films — and admissions.

to reveal any major plot points would kind of take the steam out of "Eclipse," the immensely third chapter in the vampire quartet/quintet (at least for those few dozen who aren't closed in). But it's safe to say that Edward Cullen (Pattinson), Jacob Black (Lautner) and Bella Swan (Stewart) will all be supping at the "Twilight" trough until at least 2012 — when Lautner will have reached the ripe old age of 20.
Soccer has yet to make a goal with U.S. fans

After an exciting World Cup rolled up record TV ratings, Sports Illustrated declared that soccer, its hour come round at last, is touching toward the United States: "American soccer now has its greater opportunity. If those who control this burgeoning game in the U.S. have the good sense and the enlightened self-interest to discipline themselves and to take a decent posture toward soccer, we may yet have a shot at international recognition in a game that, thanks to an accident in sporting history, passed us by."

The only catch: Those lines appeared in Sports Illustrated in March 1967. The two new professional leagues in the magazine ballyhooed surely you remember the National Professional Soccer League and the United Soccer Association were stillborn a month later. Certainly they still loom large in the memories of TV cameramen, who every week had to come up with breathtaking acrobatic new camera angles to disguise the vast expanse of empty seats at the games. If you're one of the 870 fans who attended the match between the Chicago Spuds and the Los Angeles Toros in Chicago's 6,500-seat Soldier Field in June 1967, bring your ticket stub to me and I'll buy you an ice-cream cone.

If Sports Illustrated was the first to sample the soccer Kool-Aid, plenty of others have gazed from the same pitcher over the last four decades. As the joke goes, soccer is America's sport of the future — and always will be.

From carny hucksters trying to make a quick buck selling franchises to earn assistant professors who are morally certain that world peace would be achieved if only Americans could be made to appreciate the intricacies of the corner kick, "cough cough" are up over 42 percent in just two years? Are you shitting me?

Thanks President Baker for cutting and running. Hope you enjoyed your 10 percent pay increase, your car allowance, your housing allowance, your own campus house, parking spot and your almost $400K salary while the rest of those who pay for it have to struggle even harder to pay for it in this economy when it's almost impossible to get a job as a student right now. Thanks again, Baker, for doing this while all other school employees took a 10 percent furlough cut and you cut classes to save money.

I hope you trip down the stairs in the administration building on your way out, jackass.

Great writing about Goccon! I enjoyed it.

— Scott

In response to "From Poly to the press - the Chris Goccon story"

Feeling like crap?
Get the day's top stories and more (from home) at www.mustangdaily.net

I watched the U.S.-Ghana match was indeed packed — but a third of the customers walked out when the game went into overtime, the moment at which red soccer fans should have been atigle with anticipation. And let's not start on the guy sitting beside me, who kept asking me which team was which.

A better indication of the ongoing U.S. interest in soccer — or, more correctly, the lack of it — is the attendance and TV ratings of Major League Soccer. The current professional league to hang its head against the American wall. The 17-year-old league claims an average attendance of 16,000 per match — less than even indoor pro sports like basketball and hockey; and a mere Byopex compared to Major League baseball (380,000 a game) or NFL football (68,000). And anyway, the key word in the last sentence is claims — the San Diego Union, a couple of years ago, got hold of internal Major League Soccer documents that showed that the league was giving away twice as many tickets as it was selling.

As for TV ratings, ESPN's coverage of Major League Soccer has fewer viewers than bowling or poker. I bet most of those viewers are there for the spectacle (and the beer) rather than the soccer. And most of those viewers were there for the spectacle (and the beer) rather than the soccer. The Coral Gables, Fla., bar where
**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0527

Across

1. Israel's source attraction on the Dead Sea (8)
2. "Family Ties" star (6)
3. Looks like a cheap (5)
4. Twelve in court (7)
5. "Give MeStamp" playwright (8)
6. "Give MeStamp" illustrator (7)
7. One in a crowd (8)
8. Roadside sights (5)
9. Israel's nearest neighbor (5)
10. Israeli tourist "out of town" (5)
11. Event on an island (5)
12. The New Testament has a hospital (6)
14. Testify in court (9)
15. Mich, neighbor (5)
16. A volcano (5)
17. "You're never going to show me that again!" (9)
18. An ellipse has "Get a curl" (5)
19. ________—Oarya (5)
20. Switch (5)
21. "Hittin' Streak" composer (9)
22. "Get a curl" (5)
23. "Blackboard Jungle" (5)
24. "Blackboard Jungle" (5)

Down

1. Lighting at a rock concert, maybe (5)
2. "Socialized" meaning (5)
3. Name on many school supplies (5)
4. Communication system for the geeks? (5)
5. "Shoot!" (5)
6. "Where to look for hidden words in this puzzle?" and 9 (5)
7. 1945 Philippines fighting locale (5)
8. "Meh!" (3)
9. "Segal" (5)
10. "Get a curl" (5)
11. Billboard alternative (5)
12. "Oh-so-pler>did" (5)
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

**24-Down:** "Ahhh, O.K.* (5)
**14-Down:** "Shoot!" (5)

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MUSTANG DAILY
Adam Melker's name didn't show self to watch any of it. I hoped that I would, but in long, Melker could barely pull him — ball player.

Obispo, roommates and friends all sat together watching the draft. Even if it had, Melker wouldn't have seen it.

The former Cal Poly outfielder wanted nothing to do with the majority of the three-day, 50-round draft in early June. For an event so long, Melker could barely pull himself to watch any of it.

"I kind of knew that I wasn't going to go on the first two days. Obviously I hoped that I would, but in the back of my mind I just kind of knew I wasn't," Melker said. "To be honest, I only watched about a half an hour of the last day."

His friends weren't as pessimistic. At his house in San Luis Obispo, roommates and friends all sat together watching the draft. They watched round after round, waiting to see if they could soon call their friend a professional baseball player.

The player under the microscope played center field for the Mustangs last season. He started in more than 10 games in all of his four seasons at Cal Poly, and with the exception of his freshman year, never finished a season with a batting average below .280. Toward the end of his senior season, he rode a hot streak that consisted of a 36-for-79 stretch, nudging his career batting average to just over the .300 mark. Yet, through two draft days, none of that was appealing to a major league ball club — at least not yet.

With 10 rounds left, and two days of boycotting behind him, Melker gave in. Although every MLB team had already neglected him — numerous times — he joined his friends, watching and waiting to see if he had a chance to continue his baseball career.

"It was getting to like the 40th round and I texted my mom, 'This isn't good,'" Melker said. "Right when I texted her, a scout texted me from the Cardinals asking me if I wanted to go I said, 'Of course.'"

Ten minutes later, Melker said, his name finally popped up on screen — the 1,359th selection of the draft. Melker was relieved his baseball career wasn't over: it was just taking a detour to a new destination — the St. Louis Cardinals.

"It was a good day," Melker said.

He was the last of three Mustangs selected on the final day of the draft. The Boston Red Sox selected former Cal Poly outfielder Luke Yoder in the 40th round and the Cincinnati Reds selected former Mustang starting pitcher Matt Leonard in the 38th.

"I was just happy for them," Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said. "We knew Yoder would get the opportunity; we just hoped Melker would also get that same opportunity."

With the help received from Lee and his former coaches, Melker is now a professional baseball player — playing for the Batavia Muckdogs, a Class A short season affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals.

However, his road to the major leagues isn't over. That road still extends through the twists and turns of the minor league system. All he has to do is prove to the Cardinals' coaches and scouts that he has what it takes to make it.

In turn, they will show his game under the microscope, picking at any flaw or potential flaw in his game. His success in batting drills, fielding drills and in-game situations will decide his future.

This is where ball players are separated from imposters. For now he takes a new field, in a new city, with a new uniform on his back. The majority of the players around him are in the same position, all hoping to move further in their journey to the majors. But Melker has one tool that has been drilled into his mind at all four positions in all of his four seasons at Cal Poly, something that sticks him out from everyone else.

"Mental strength," Melker said. "That's my biggest asset. I just go out and play hard, and if things affect them, then things affect me from the Cardinals asking me if I wanted to go I said, 'Of course.'"

"The college game is geared — everybody definitely wants to win — but it is also about player development," Melker said. "Sacrifice bats, moving people over, hits and runs, things like that we see commonly in college, you don't really see in pro ball, they let you hit away more."

His former teammate, Yoder, is experiencing the same type of change as well. There are not many similarities between the pro and the college game.

"The college game is geared solely on winning; the pro game — everybody definitely wants to win — but it is also about player development," Melker said. "Sacrifice bats, moving people over, hits and runs, things like that we see commonly in college, you don't really see in pro ball, they let you hit away more."

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