The different academic back-grounds (of each candidate) could lead or advance the university in different ways.

— Bryan Igarta
Civil engineering sophomore

Cal Poly students to show their smarts in national math competition

Russell Peterson
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

On Dec. 4, about two dozen Cal Poly students will attempt to solve complex problems in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition.

The competition is considered one of the most prestigious math contests of the year. More than 500 schools from the United States and Canada participate, and about 3,500 students compete every year, said Jonathan Shapiro, professor of mathematics.

"The problems are not the usual math you need to solve the problem completely and correctly," Shapiro said. "It is a chance for them to show their mental activity. They give you no hint at all. They give you no hint at all."

"The problems are not the usual problems students are used to," Kelleher said. "They give you no hint on what direction to take, and they are usually across the board in terms of mathematics. This makes the exam very hard to do."

The competition is so difficult that the top scorers are considered to be some of the brightest math students in the country. A good performance in the competition earns a student a great deal of prestige, and catches the attention of graduate schools, said Morgan Sherman, assistant professor of mathematics.

Cal Poly has done well in the competition in the past, especially for the size of the university, Shapiro said. Two years ago, Cal Poly placed 74th out of roughly 500 schools, and had an average score of about six.

To prepare for the rigors of the exam, students can take a two-unit course during the fall quarter, MATH 370 — Putnam exam seminar. Students do practice problems in the course and work as a team to solve them, said Lawrence Sze, associate professor of mathematics.

"It seems a lot of fun for certain kinds of people," Sze said.

"It is a chance for them to show their talent at problem solving," Shapiro said.

The competition consists of 12 questions and contestants have six hours to solve as many as they can. The questions come from an area of math called pure math, said Kevin Lamb, a contestant and mathematics junior.

"Pure math is all about abstract thought and problem solving," Lamb said. "You are not asked to prove theorems, but each problem requires a certain amount of creativity. You need to have good visualization skills to do well in the competition."

This kind of thought is not something that comes easily to many students since it is not taught in the general education system, said Casey Kelleher, a contestant and mathematics junior.

"The problems are not the usual problems students are used to," Kelleher said. "They give you no hint on what direction to take, and they are usually across the board in terms of mathematics. This makes the exam very hard to do."

The challenge the competition poses to the participants is so great that of 120 possible points on the exam, more than half the competitors get a zero, get together to practice for the exam," Sze said.

"It is a lot of fun for us."

"We practice problems together and try to work together to prepare for the exam," Sze said. "It is actually a lot of fun for us."

Many students who take the exam actually choose to do so because of the social aspect, Sze said.

"It is for certain kinds of people to sit down and try to solve problems," Sze said.

see President, page 2

Russell Peterson
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Second time's (hopefully) the charm for presidential candidates

As the search for Cal Poly's president begins again, the presidential candidates are scheduled to visit campus and answer student questions throughout the week.

Alicia Freeman

The names of the three presidential candidates were released Nov. 29, providing Cal Poly students with an idea of who their new president might be.

Robert E. Palazzo, Thomas C. Skalak and Jeffrey D. Armstrong will visit campus Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 for forums for students, faculty and students in the Cal Poly community. Each candidate will visit on a separate day. Palazzo will visit Nov. 30, Skalak Dec. 1 and Armstrong Dec. 2.

All of the candidates have differing academic focuses. Palazzo, the provost and chief academic officer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., received his Bachelor of Science in biology in 1979 and doctorate in biological sciences and biochemistry in 1984 from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., according to his biography on the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute website.

Skalak was also a post-doctorate fellow at the University of Virginia. Skalak, the vice president for research and professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Virginia, received his B.S. in biomedical engineering from John Hopkins University in 1979, and his doctorate, also in biomedical engineering, from the University of California, San Diego in 1984, according to his biography on the University of Virginia website.

Armstrong, the dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and professor of animal science at Michigan State University, according to his biography on the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute website, received his Bachelor of Science in agriculture from North Carolina State University and his Master's and doctorate degrees in 1984 and 1986, respectively.

"You are not asked to prove theorems, but each problem requires a certain amount of creativity. You need to have good visualization skills to do well in the competition."

"Second time's (hopefully) the charm for presidential candidates"
Construction continues to cause "Big Squeeze" throughout campus

Hope Hanselman
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Expect detours on Via Carta, the major pedestrian and vehicle pathway connecting North and South Perimeter roads, for the next three years as construction is completed for the new Center for Science and Mathematics.

Via Carta will remain closed to students to give access to trucks hauling materials in and out of the site. The fences also keep pedestrians safe as the construction team removes hazardous materials from the existing building.

Construction currently occupies most of the College of Science and Mathematics. Phil Bailey, the dean of the college, has had the task of acclimating students, staff and faculty to the changes the campus will undergo.

"If you went to drag your finger around the entire perimeter of the Spider Building, you will have walked 1 ⅜ miles," Bailey said.

Bailey calls the accommodations made to classrooms in response to the construction the "Big Squeeze." The college needed to relocate 10 science labs from the previous building to alternative buildings, including the Chyle P. Fischer Science and Graphic Arts buildings. Cal Poly's decreased enrollment helped make this transition more manageable as the university has fewer students to accommodate, Bailey said.

The college also has the option, if necessary, to offer more lab classes to students. The university, however, has not yet needed to do so, he said.

The building was designed in the "50s when Cal Poly had a student body of around 5,000 students. Today, Cal Poly's student body exceeds 19,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

"The university is really short of classrooms," Bailey said.

The new Center for Science and Mathematics will provide the campus with 200,000 square feet of workable space for classrooms, labs, offices and studying. The previous building was 46,200 square feet.

"We said we wanted room for students and we're going to get it," Bailey said.

Classrooms will be constructed to integrate lecture and lab so that students can experience both in one class period. The "studio classrooms" will reduce the number of hours students are assigned to attend class, Bailey said.

The building will also be fully certified by the Leadership for Environmental and Energy Design (LEED).

Contractors are hoping to achieve Gold LEED Certification, an honor that signifies the building's design is environmentally sustainable across fields including water, energy, atmosphere, resource and transportation efficiency.

The construction, led by Zimmer Gunsul & Frasca Architects, is currently removing hazardous material from the building and relocating 14 trees.

"We're right on schedule right now," said Pamela Timm, project information coordinator for the Center for Science and Math.

The team has already completed construction of a fiber-optic building hub, the switchboard for the Center for Science and Math's electronic operations that now stands just north of Engineering East.

An upgrade to the Central Plant also began this month. The construction team is installing increased chiller capacity for the new building's air-conditioning unit and completing the campus chilled-water loop.

Bailey said the bidders anticipate more detours on Via Carta as the construction continues for the next three years as the new Center for Science and Math.

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

"You get to hang out with a bunch of students who are as geeky as you are.

The best individual performers in the competition win cash prizes. The top five scorers — named Putnam Fellows — are awarded $2,500. One of the five receives the William Lowell Putnam Prize Scholarship, a $12,000 scholarship and tuition for graduate school at Harvard University, Shipiro said.

The top two performers for Cal Poly receive the Ralph E. Weston Memorial Award at the end of the year. The given amount varies from year to year, but it is usually between $200 and $300, said Cami Renz, administrative coordinator for the mathematics department.

"Cash prizes are not the reason most participants from Cal Poly choose to compete," Lamb said.

"I am participating more as a personal challenge than anything, because I enjoy the sheer toughness of the competition," Lamb said. "If I score well, so be it, but I take the test to see how my math maturity stacks up against the best in the nation."
Government scrambles to head off uproar caused by WikiLeaks release

Jonathan S. Landay
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The Obama Administration moved Monday to contain potential damage to U.S. national security from the WikiLeaks release of tens of thousands of sensitive U.S. diplomatic documents and said it might take criminal action against the whistle-blowing Internet site.

The White House directed a government-wide review of guidelines for classified information handling, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ordered tighter safeguards for U.S. diplomatic communications.

Meanwhile, the CIA was assessing harm done to U.S. intelligence operations.

"This is a serious violation of the law," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. "This is a serious threat to individuals that both carry out and assist our foreign policy."

Attorney General Eric Holder said, "an active, ongoing criminal investigation" was under way, and he indicated foreigners associated with WikiLeaks, including its Australian founder, Julian Assange, could be targeted.

"Let me be very clear. It's not saber-rattling. To the extent that we can find anybody who was involved in the breaking of American law ... they will be held accountable. They will be held responsible," Holder said.

"To the extent that there are gaps in our laws, we will move to close those gaps, which is not to say that anybody at this point, because of their citizenship or residence, is not a target or a subject of an investigation that is ongoing."

Clinton said the release of the cables was "not just an attack on America's foreign policy interests. It is an attack on the international community, the alliances and partnerships, the conversations and negotiations that safeguard global security and advance economic prosperity."

At the same time, senior administration officials began moderating their assessment of the potential harm done by the leaked documents, the first batch of which was released Sunday.

While leaks could be at risk and ties with some countries hurt, they said, relationships with key governments will weather the fallout.

"I am confident that the partnerships that the Obama Administration has worked so hard to build will withstand this challenge," said Clinton, who took pains at a news conference not to confirm the authenticity of the materials, calling them "alleged cables."

In the latest revelations, a Feb. 3, 2010, cable from the U.S. ambassador to South Korea quoted the country's vice foreign minister as saying "China would not be able to stop North Korea's collapse" after the death of its ailing dictator, Kim Jong Il.

The isolated nuclear-armed Stalinist nation has "already collapsed economically and would collapse politically" two to three years after Kim dies, South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Chun Young-woo was quoted as telling U.S. Ambassador Kathleen Stephens in the secret cable to Washington written by Stephens.

Chen said unidentified "sophisticated Chinese officials" — whose names were redacted from the cable — believed that the divided Korean peninsula should be reunified under the control of a South Korea in a "foreign alliance" with the United States.

Clinton said she had ordered "new security safeguards" to protect State Department information carried on Defense Department computer systems and elsewhere ... so that this kind of breach cannot and does not happen ever again.

CIA officials, meanwhile, were poring over the cables "to assess the extent of any intelligence concerns," said a senior U.S. intelligence official, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The White House released a letter sent to every U.S. department and agency by Jacob J. Lew, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, ordering each to "establish a security assessment team ... to review the ... implementation of procedures for safeguarding classified information against improper disclosures."

Next week, the Obama Administration has brought in charges in recent months in four cases involving leaks of classified information. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., said the panel is considering whether legislation is needed to tighten access to classified material.

"We are also looking at strengthening administrative sanctions against individuals who leak," said Feinstein, D-Calif.
President Barack Obama called Monday for a two-year freeze on federal workers' pay, a symbolic act that kicked off a week of partisan debate over how to contain government spending while stabilizing the economy.

"Going forward, we're going to have to make some additional very tough decisions that this town has put off for a very long time, and that's what this upcoming week is really about," Obama said in announcing the freeze plan, which would save $5 billion over two years and affect civilian workers, not the military. Congress must approve the freeze for it to become effective.

The federal budget deficit was about $1.3 trillion in the recently ended fiscal year, and the national debt is estimated to rise to 17 percent by 2020. Paying interest on that debt alone gobbles 6 percent of all government services would shut down. The freeze for it to become effective.

"Freezing federal pay is just getting the job done im­mediately, so that we can keep the government functioning; otherwise, most nonessential government services would shut down," said Margaret Talev, a conservative research center analyst at the Heritage Foundation, who said it reinforced the need for additional tough decisions.

On Wednesday, the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, also known as Obama's bipartisan deficit commission, is to issue its report on how to bring down the crippling budget deficits and debt. On other urgent fiscal fronts, some 2 million people stand to lose extended unemployment benefits over the next few weeks unless Congress acts soon; the money runs out Tuesday.

Congress also must act by Friday to authorize money to keep the government functioning; otherwise, most nonessential government services would shut down.

"President Barack Obama"
**State**

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — The federal appeals court panel that will decide the legality of Proposition 8, the 2008 ballot measure that banned same-sex marriage in California, represents a broad ideological spectrum of the judiciary.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals announced Monday that Stephen Reinhardt, the liberal lion of the circuit, will decide the case along with Michael Daly Hawkins, a moderate appointed by President Bill Clinton, and N. Randy Smith, a conservative named to the court by President George W. Bush.

The panel is scheduled to hear arguments Dec. 6 in San Francisco.

... SANTA ROSA (MCT) — In a quick jolt, a 2.6 earthquake hit downtown Santa Rosa Monday morning, reported the U.S. Geological Survey, which tracks earthquakes.

The quake was centered in Santa Rosa and was most likely on the Rodgers Creek fault, said geologist David Schwartz with the U.S.G.S.

According to Google Earth, the epicenter was under the playground at Santa Rosa Middle School on the edge of downtown, if the initial coordinates reported were accurate.

Students felt the quake but were not evacuated. No damage or injuries were reported, said one emergency dispatcher.

**National**

FLORIDA (MCT) — News ran wild Monday that Hawthorn Elementary in Seminole County had banned red and green this month because the colors are associated with Christmas.

The "Fox & Friends" program and other conservative media outlets cited the story as another sign of politically correct overkill.

The report was in error, Seminole County school district officials said.

"The banning of red and green is simply not true," said Regina Klaers, district spokeswoman.

The story, which first ran on local WESH-TV, quoted an outraged parent saying the school banned red and green because they are Christmas colors. But Klaers said the unidentified woman never checked with school officials.

WASHINGTON D.C. (MCT) — The feds are again cracking down on websites dealing bootleg goods.

The Department of Justice said Monday it moved to seize 82 websites dealing bootleg goods, which in many cases were suppliers.

Federal agents made undercover purchases from online retailers suspected of selling counterfeit goods, which in many cases were shipped to the U.S. directly from suppliers.

**International**

UGANDA (MCT) — Uganda on Monday launched a program to circumcise over a million men every year in a bid to stem the increase in HIV infections.

"Uganda still has a big epidemic of HIV, and last year we had 125,000 new infections," Dr. Christopher Oleke, an official with the project under the health ministry told reporters.

"We are launching this program to target over 1 million men aged 14 to 55 years."

Mobile health units will be used to reach outlying areas of the country under the voluntary exercise, which aims to increase the percentage of circumcised people in the country from 20 to 40 percent, Oleke said.

... BULGARIA (MCT) — A freighter flying the flag of Sierra Leone sank after a collision with a Dutch tanker in the Black Sea on Monday, leaving five crew members unaccounted for, the Bulgarian Interior Ministry said.

The Karia 1 went down during stormy weather 10 nautical miles off Cape Emine, a headland in Bulgaria.

Five of its 16-member crew were rescued, all but one of them from Syria.

The freighter was on its way to Istanbul. The tanker, which did not have any cargo, was travelling to the Bulgarian port of Varna.

Authorities said there was no danger of an oil leak.
The cost of borrowing rose sharply Monday for many European governments as investors fretted over the possibility of defaults on government bonds in a new round of volatility that was eerily reminiscent of the U.S. financial crisis.

With recommendations expected in two days from a special commission on ways to cut the U.S. federal deficit, the rising borrowing costs in Europe offered a sobering reminder of what could happen here if investors decide that Washington is unwilling or unable to address its mounting debt.

Stocks fell sharply in Europe, shunning a $90 billion rescue package prepared by the European Union for Ireland. The deal announced late Sunday would provide low interest loans to Ireland to cover its financial obligations in exchange for budget-austerity measures.

The EU deal also extended the payback time for some loans to Greece, whose fiscal problems started the European debt crisis last spring.

Worried that several European governments will eventually default on their debts, investors demanded much higher interest rates on government bonds from those countries. For example, the yield on a 10-year bond from Spain was almost 2.73 percentage points higher than one issued by fiscally stable Germany. Investors demanded an interest rate 4.49 percentage points higher than Germany's for a bond issued by Portugal and 9.28 percentage points higher for one issued by Greece.

Jitters about Europe's debt problems upset U.S. markets in early trading, with the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 100 points for most of the day before recovering in late trading to finish the day off 39.51 points at 11,092.49.

U.S. banks have relatively little exposure to government debt of troubled European nations, but average Americans face unexpected risks from the European debt crisis. Here are some answers to questions about that.

Q: Could the United States find itself in a debt crisis like Greece or Ireland?
A: Right now U.S. government bonds are viewed as a safe haven, a refuge from the global financial storm.

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U.S. banks have relatively little exposure to government debt of troubled European nations, but average Americans face unexpected risks from the European debt crisis. Here are some answers to questions about that.

Q: Could the United States find itself in a debt crisis like Greece or Ireland?
A: Right now U.S. government bonds are viewed as a safe haven, a refuge from the global financial storm. But interest on the national debt eats 6 percent of all federal spending and that is projected to rise to about 17 percent in 2020. If the United States cannot bring down its ratio of debt to the size of its economy, investors could worry that we cannot pay our government debt and demand a higher return. This would make managing the debt even more costly and difficult.

Q: Are there other ways that the European crisis affects the United States?
A: In the center of the discussion the United States is trying to export more, the dollar had been weakening in recent months, giving U.S. exporters a competitive advantage. But now Europe's currency, the euro, is weakening against the dollar. If the bailout of Ireland fails to calm markets, the euro could fall further, making U.S. exports more expensive in one of our biggest markets.
Perfect your Christmas caroling with a little help from the leek

Leeks have been cultivated for more than 3,000 years with a myriad of benefits acclaimed to their name. The Egyptians believed leeks provided strength for those building the pyramids. Hippocrates prescribed leeks to cure nosebleeds and the soldiers of Wales used leeks in their hats to identify themselves from their Saxons enemies. Today the health benefits of leeks are still widely celebrated across the continents.

Leeks are close relatives to both garlic and onions (all part of the Allium family), and share many of the common health benefits associated with the Allium family. Vegetables of this family are commonly recognized as agents that lower LDL (“bad” cholesterol) and increase HDL (“good” cholesterol) and any meal prepared for a picky eater. Whether or not leeks grant you the ability to sing an angelic melody from heaven is still debatable, but surely this down-to-earth, family-oriented vegetable can make at least one note resound in harmony “...yummmm!”

CLUE: Viring, shukuga, abrebe, sinkshah, celebración, first!

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**Leek Potato Soup**
(Seventeen of www.foodnetwork.com)

**Ingredients**
- 2 pounds leeks, dried, and dark green sections removed, approximately 5-6 medium onions
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Heavy pinch leek salt, plus additional for seasoning
- 1 part vegetable broth
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter

**Directions**
Chop the leeks into medium pieces. In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the leeks and a heavy pinch of salt and sweat for five minutes. Decrease the heat to medium-low and cook until the leeks are tender, approximately 25 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the potatoes and the vegetable broth, increase the heat to medium-high, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover and gently stir until the potatoes are soft, approximately 45 minutes.

Turn off the heat and pour the mixture into an immersion blender until smooth. Mix in the heavy cream, a pinch of salt, white pepper, and any additional seasoning if desired. Sprinkle with chives and serve immediately, or chill and serve cold.

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**The Food Factor**
Heather Rockwood is a food science junior and the Mustang Daily food columnist.

The holidays are just around the corner and the winter wind rings with reality. As caroling season approaches, leeks are conveniently reaching the peak of their perfect his singing voice. As caroling can soothe the throat for melody, with firm rich green tips are most desirable. Once you have selected the perfect leek, be sure to wash it thoroughly, as leeks are notorious for collecting and hiding dirt and grit in their folds.

As many of us know from personal experience, our characteristics are often influenced by our families and, once again, the leek is no different from the everyday family. This vegetable shares many characteristics with its beloved cousin, the onion. Although the flavor of the leek is similar to the onion, it is much more subtle, delicate and sweet. These flavor characteristics make leeks the perfect addition to a variety of soups and any meal prepared for a picky eater.

When it comes to leek serving size it is clear bigger is better, but when walking the local markets and selecting the most delicious leek for the dinner table, this cliché motto holds no validity. As leeks mature they increase in diameter size and will become woody. Stalks ranging in one inch to one and a half inches in diameter provide the most promising flavors.

Color is also a key component to consider in selection. White stalks, free of any yellow discoloration, with firm rich green tips are most desirable. Once you have selected the perfect leek, be sure to wash it thoroughly, as leeks are notorious for collecting and hiding dirt and grit in their folds.

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**Crazy Jays**
767 Higuera Street
Downtown SLO

$39.99 Denim Sale
Skinny • Boot Cut • Straight Leg • Flare • Skinny • Boot Cut • Straight Leg • Flare

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John McCullough
jmccullough2011@calpoly.edu

Imagine Barry Bonds, Casey Blake or Michael Viang, arguably three of the MLB’s greatest hitters, coming to Cal Poly to teach the baseball team how to hit. Imagine Thom Mayer — the well known Los Angeles-based architect — coming to teach Cal Poly’s architecture students about designing buildings.

This is an analogy that music department chair Thomas Davies uses to describe the importance of the music department’s upcoming visitor, because that’s what it will be like for Cal Poly music students to be in the presence of professional musician Paul Harris, who is coming to campus to teach them how to perform musically.

The Cal Poly Music Department will host Harris, a professional opera singer, today to teach and critique some of Cal Poly’s music majors with emphases in voice.

The class — known as a vocal master class — will be open to anyone who wants to observe some of Cal Poly’s music students perform and perfect their craft, said department chair Thomas Davies.

“Any person can come and hear a professional who has sung with major names in the United States and Europe,” Davies said. “He’ll show people how to sing those pieces in a different way. He’s doing it from a real sense of experience. He knows the music more intimately than many people.”

Harris has been working as a coach for the San Francisco Opera and just finished working on “Cyra-no De Bergerac,” the French-sung opera about a poet-swordsman.

As a coach, Harris has several responsibilities with little time to fulfill them.

“We have three or four weeks of rehearsal, we play piano for the stage rehearsals, we advise on balance and many other issues that come up,” Harris said.

Harris will work with Cal Poly’s music students on many of the same things he coaches professional opera singers about, and he hopes his comments will be helpful to the students, he said.

“They will sing an aria or song and I will tell them what I think,” he said. “I’ve been doing this for a long time and have accompanied many rehearsals. I would like the students to know what they’re singing about. I’ll focus on language, phrasing, vocal line and their interpretation on the whole so that it sounds beautiful.”

There are many key elements to performing a piece and it will be good to have the knowledge and advice of a professional who understands what a good performance should entail, Davies said.

“Music is kind of a building block thing,” he said. “We build at different points in our lives. What is it to create a piece and perform a piece of music? It’s the same with every major on campus. This is a foundation. The more you learn, the more the building goes up. Here we’re talking about music. It’s the same as architecture or civil science.”

And this is something that music students want others at Cal Poly to know about their major. Music senior Morgan Hurd said the stereotype of a major in music as fun and easygoing is hardly true.

“People think that music is an easy major,” said Hurd. “It’s not.”

Every quarter, music students are required to be in at least one vocal or instrumental ensemble, as well as take private lessons to rehearse solo pieces performed at the end of each quarter, Hurd said. This is all done in addition to their regular course loads.

Several students have prepared pieces to share with Harris throughout the quarter. Music senior Natalie de Brujin, among other students, will sing in a performance for the operatic today.

“This is really important for us,” she said. “He’s worked with professionals all over the world. I hope he’s not too harsh.”

De Brujin has worked on her piece all quarter. She sees her vocal teacher Jacalyn Kreitzer every week and spends hours trying to perfect every element of the song, de Brujin said.

“She has been working on creating beautiful vocal technique for three years, and then, in order to sing in a prepared manner for a professional coach, she had to make certain she knew the translation word for word, do research on the opera source, acting, character, diction, stage deportment and subtext,” Kreitzer said. “Only then is she ready to sing, and she is.”

It’s different than simply singing through a song, de Brujin said.

De Brujin won’t be alone on Tuesday. Music senior Katie Dugan will also perform for Harris and said it’s important for people to realize how important an art-form opera is.

In addition to the musical element, opera tells stories as well as contain some of the world’s best stage decor. Dugan said.

“Back when opera first started being performed that was how people were entertained,” Dugan said. “The composers and performers of opera were the celebrities of their day.”

Although Hurd won’t perform alongside Dugan and de Brujin, he shares the same sentiments about opera.

“It’s a question of is opera relevant and more a question of whether opera is important,” he said. “It is because it’s a part of our history. It’s an art form and a major part of our history — it would be a shame if it was lost.”

Whether or not Cal Poly’s music students will go on to be the next Luciano Pavarotti, the Barry Bonds of the operatic stage, they won’t leave Cal Poly without experience performing it.

“This is what Cal Poly is about,” Hurd said. “Learn by doing.”

Harris will be in room 218 of the Davidson Music Center at 5 p.m.
Franco and Hathaway to host Academy Awards

Nicole Sperling
Los Angeles Times

If it's good enough for "Saturday Night Live," it's good enough for the Academy Awards?

That's the hope anyway of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which announced Monday that James Franco and Anne Hathaway will co-host the 83rd Academy Awards.

With respective ages of 32 and 28, the two actors are among the youngest hosts for the iconic awards show. While both are accomplished, adventurous and well-regarded actors, their primary job qualification for hosting a live variety show is their experience toplining "SNL."

"We're not going to require them to perform six to eight skits playing different characters live in front of an audience — and Franco and Hathaway are a key part of that plan. "It's a little younger in its approach," Mischer said. "They are both attractive and young. They can be playful at times and it felt good to us as the direction we wanted to go with the show." (Franco and Hathaway declined to comment for this story.)

It's not the first time that "SNL" has served as the farm team for the major leagues of Hollywood, stretching back to the days of Chevy Chase and Bill Murray. More recently, Justin Timberlake proved himself a nimble enough actor on the late-night comedy sketch show for David Fincher to cast him in a supporting role in this year's likely best picture contender "The Social Network," which tells the story of how Facebook came into the world.

"It has always been a thing that happens on the show where people see that people are more than what they thought they were," said "SNL" producer Lorne Michaels. "Whenever people get to see something they never saw before, it has another level to it."

Still, the move to hire Hathaway and Franco is clearly a departure from Oscar hosts in the past. While Hathaway scored high marks for her brief song-and-dance number with Hugh Jackman on the 81st award show and recently played Viola in New York's Shakespeare in the Park's "Twelfth Night," her experience on live television is limited. Jackman himself was considered a surprise choice two years ago, but the Australian had hosted the Tonys three times and won a Tony for his role in "The Boy From Oz."

Franco, meanwhile, has an eclectic — some would say oddball — resume, including performance art pieces and a recurring part on the television soap opera "General Hospital." But he's not known for live stage performances and only recently moved into the ranks of leading actors. Contrast that with last year's hosts, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin (ages 52 and 65 respectively), both longtime movie and comedy stars.

"It's a positive choice to go see Franco, page 11"
younger and break the mold," said Gil Cates, who has produced numerous Oscar telecasts. "With this show, sometimes you have to do something to learn how effective it will be. When I first chose Billy Crystal to host, some people thought it was a mistake. At the end of the day, if it works it's a great choice."

Mischer spins the news this way: He and Cohen were interested in hiring movie stars, rather than comedians, to headline the show.

"Bruce and I talked a lot about what it should feel like when our hosts walk out on that stage at the top of the show. People should feel that they deserve to be there, that they want to be there and they are comfortable there. It contributes to a familial feeling in the room, and that translates into television."

Franco is already likely to have a reason to be at the show, as he's practically guaranteed a best actor nomination for his commanding role as Aron Ralston, the hiker who cut off his lower right arm in Danny Boyle's "127 Hours."

Hathaway is more of a long shot for her part in the recent dramedy "Love & Other Drugs," which opened this past holiday weekend to mixed reviews and $14 million at the box office. But Hathaway has already been nominated for an Oscar and is widely considered to be one of the most talented of the younger generation of actors.

It wouldn't be the first time an Oscar nominee is a host of the Academy Awards, though you have to go back close to 40 years to find an example. In 1973, Michael Caine was a co-host of the show and was nominated for his role in "Sleuth," while in 1999 David Niven hosted the show, and received the lead actor prize for "Separate Tables" that night. But that was prior to Oscar campaigning becoming a full-time job for potential nominees, and some within the industry wonder if Franco is not hurtting his chances for the Oscar by playing MC.

In the past, the academy has used such movie stars as Jane Fonda, Warren Beatty and Frank Sinatra as hosts. But while Franco and Hathaway are clearly emerging talents, they don't yet have the worldwide box office appeal of stars such as Johnny Depp or Angelina Jolie.

Hathaway has practically grown up on the big screen from her early starring roles in the family-friendly "Princess Diaries" franchise. She's graduated to more adult fare in the R-rated "Love & Other Drugs" and 2008's darker indie drama "Rachel Getting Married," for which the actress won a nomination. She's also made more commercial choices, co-starring in mainstream fare such as "Alice in Wonderland" and "Get Smart."

Prior to "127 Hours," Franco was best known as villain Harry Osborn in "Spider-Man," as a stoner dude in "Pineapple Express" or as Scott Smith in 2008's Oscar-nominee "Milk."

Taking on the Oscar hosting gig though is in line with Franco's recent quest to turn his career into a performance artist package. From his live art installation in New York City, to his book of poetry, Franco's career has not been conventional by any measure.
Everything is religion today

By Eric Baldwin

Eric Baldwin is an electrical engineering senior and Mustang Daily librarian columnist.

The separation of church and state is a famous concept in American politics. Even though the phrase is not found in the Constitution, its equivalent meaning is usually derived from the First Amendment — Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. But what does it mean? What do we make of it?

Religion is often viewed as an object of personal preference on the same level as a favorite color or candy bar; its purpose is simply the fulfillment of a perceived need — in short, it is a consumer product. For some this is true; it is a social or personal habit that provides a level of pleasure, and merely so. For others it is a fundamental belief that provides structure and significance to all other beliefs and perceptions.

What meaning people may attach to the word "religion," each of us possesses a set of fundamental, structural beliefs. When I say "religion," I refer to that set of beliefs, whether it is standardized (as in organized religion), or unique. By this understanding, naturalism is also a religion because it posesses a comprehensive framework of perception and interpretation constructed on fundamental beliefs.

One’s actual religion (whether natural or supernatural) determines the nature of every other belief, perception, and activity. As such, religion is the most fundamentally consequential aspect of human life. Every decision ever made in accordance with the decision-maker’s values. Wherever decisions are made, religion is present. Religion cannot be compartmentalized; it is impossible to divide anything — whether culture, or government, or personal life — into religious and secular dichotomies.

All non-compulsory actions proceed from and are consistent with one’s fundamental set of values, however harmonious or conflicted those values may be.

The separation of church and state is often used to construct a dichotomy between religion and government, and with good reason; the separation of church and state promises the government, and with good reason; the separation of church and state promises the state? That it means a separation of organization and interpretation constructed on fundamental beliefs and its relationship with religion.

The separation of church and state as it is used today seems to offer a compromise between government and religion where each is promised to be undisturbed so long as it remains inside its proper sphere. But if everything is religion, if all motives and decisions are ultimately the product of fundamental values, then it is meaningless to speak of a limited sphere for religion; religion encompasses everything. The separation of church and state, as we use it today, does not refer to a conflict between the religious and the secular, but between religion and religion. It refers not to a simple rule: one side is exclused from being challenged by the other.

What does the separation of church and state promise the "church"? It promises to unite with religious organizations, and with good reason: the combination of moral authority and physical coercion is an irresistible instrument of control. But if all decisions are made in accordance with the decision-maker’s religion — the decision-maker’s system of values, whether or not it has been inspect, they be suspended safely above the corruption and misuse? Why shouldn’t they be suspended safely above the corruption and misuse? Why shouldn’t they be suspended safely above the corruption and misuse? Why shouldn’t they be suspended safely above the corruption and misuse?

What if religion is important, but it must arise from faith in the Natural law? The systems and laws under which we live emerged from the beliefs of the people who created them. If we are to maintain what we have been given, it should be because it emerges from our understanding and laws as well, not because we are forced from questioning them. We cannot shift responsibility away onto those who came before us, and if our beliefs are wrong, we must accept the consequences.

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Tuesday, November 30, 2010
Colombia ‘drifting away’ from U.S. causes concern

Andres Oppenheimer is a Latin America correspondent for the Miami Herald.

Colombia’s right-of-center President Juan Manuel Santos may have been kidding when he recently repeated that left-of-center President Hugo Chavez is his “new best friend.” But few in Washington are laughing.

There is a growing feeling in the U.S. capital — especially in Congress — that Santos is moving, and shifting away from Colombia’s close alliance with the United States over the last eight years.

Since Santos took office in August, he has taken several steps to distance himself from former president Alvaro Uribe’s policies. Consider:

Santos’ first official trip as president was to Brazil. Since then, he has toured several Latin American countries, but has yet to set foot on Washington soil.

Santos has met several times with Chavez, and both have vowed to dramatically improve Colombi­an-Venezuelan ties. Relations were openly hostile under Uribe, in part because the former Colombian president repeatedly denounced Venezuela’s clandestine support for Colombia’s FARC guerrillas.

Complying with Chavez’s wish, the Colombian government has recently announced that it will extradite suspected Venezuelan drug kingpin Walid Makled to Venezuela, rather than to the United States. Both Venezuela and the United States had requested Makled, who has testified that top Venezuelan government officials were protecting his drug trafficking operations. Chavez wants Makled at home, to keep him silent, or press him to recant his testimony.

The Santos government has no immediate plans to submit to the Colombian Congress a new bill authorizing the presence of U.S. military bases in several Colombian military bases. Colombia’s officials say they have not been approached by the United States.

*U.S.*-Colombian military agreements to that effect were recently validated by a Colombian court.

Santos is scheduled to launch free trade agreements with Canada and the European Union in coming months. The 2004 *U.S.*-Colombia free trade agreement has yet to be ratified by the U.S. Congress.

Carl Meacham, a senior staffer for Senate Foreign Relations Committee ranking member Richard Lugar, says that the U.S. failure to ratify the trade deal “has led Colombia to look at other options.” They are definitely drifting away: their orientation is now weighted toward the United States as it was before.”

Reps. Connie Mack, a conservative Republican who is scheduled to become chair of the House Western Hemisphere subcommittee next year, conceded to me that “there are a lot of concerns” about Colombia in Congress, but added that “I’m not ready to say that he is drifting away from the United States.”

Curious about what’s in Santos’ mind, I talked with several Colombians who are very close to the new president.

Most told me that, indeed, there is a deliberate foreign policy shift in Colombia. It was prompted by the U.S. failure to deliver on its trade deal with Colombia despite major diplomatic overtures from Colombia.

In recent years, Colombia has accepted U.S. troops in Colombian military bases, has sent Colombian police officials and anti-narcotics agents to Afghanistan in support of U.S. troops, and has voted with the United States on most issues at the United Nations.

Despite these and other gestures, there has been no positive response on the free-trade deal from Washington. President Barack Obama’s close ties with anti-free trade U.S. labor unions has kept him from pushing more aggressively for ratification of the trade deal, they said.

“Colombians are somewhat disillusioned with the United States,” says Enrique Santos Calderon, until recently outgoing editor and columnist of El Tiempo, Colombia’s most influential newspa­per, and the president’s brother.

“There is a feeling that we need to take some distance, and stop making efforts that are not reciprocated.”

My opinion: The new Colombian president is moving closer to Chavez mainly for economic reasons. Venezuela is one of Colombia’s biggest export markets, and previous tensions between the two countries had hurt Colombian exports badly.

In addition, Santos is also using his temporary honeymoon with Chavez as a negotiating strategy to move Washington into action on the issue of the free-trade pact. Colombia is waiting for the previous policy didn’t work, he’s try­ing something else.

Though I do agree with bringing Halisky I’ve only ever heard speak ofFour Loko — known on college campuses as “blackout in a can” — contains as much alcohol as four beers and the caffeine equivalent of a cup of coffee. Drinkers get drunk yet remain alert enough to keep drinking, sometimes to bad effect.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that drinkers who consume alcohol mixed with energy drinks are three times more likely to binge drink than other drinkers. Mary Claire O’Brien, a professor of emergency medicine at Wake Forest University, last year told the FDA that combining alcohol and caffeine was dangerous. She said drinking beer and coffee is like playing poker. As a good poker player, she is keeping everybody guessing, including his friends in the U.S. capital.

**FDA takes strong stance against alcoholic drinks with caffeine**

The following editorial appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

Food and Drug Administration officials have begun a long overdue crackdown on alcoholic drinks that contain caffeine.

The FDA has concluded, correctly, that adding caffeine to alcohol is unsafe and hasn’t been approved by federal officials. Four companies that make the drinks were given 15 days to take action: The FDA could seek a court order barring the products if they don’t.

The FDA’s decision comes after a series of disturbing reports involving underage drinking and its potentially dangerous effects. Phusion Projects, known on campus as “blackout in a can” — contains as much alcohol as four beers and the caffeine equivalent of a cup of coffee. Drinkers get drunk yet remain alert enough to keep drinking, sometimes to bad effect.

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Volleyball
continued from page 16
the team's season total and was rec­
ognized as an honorable mention for
the Big West all conference team.
Fortunately for the Mustangs,
two first-team all conference mem­
bers, Graven and Kcddy, will return
to the court in 2011. Graven, the
team leader in kills, also was awarded
Big West Freshman of the Year.
"I was really excited (when I
found out)," Graven said. "It's a great
award to receive. It was really cool
and I was happy when I found out." She
noted that although the
Mustangs will miss Olowolaid and
Mort, they have a group of return­
ers that will form the backbone of a
team that will be a contender for the
2011 tournament.
Junior Cade Smith also received
an honorable mention from the Big
West. She was second on the team in
kills with 349, one more than Kcddy,
while posting 2.31 digs per set.
In the first round of the tour­
nament, Fullerton plays Colorado
State at Stanford while Long Beach
State makes a trip to Los Angeles to
face the University of San Diego.
The Mustangs were 3-3 this year
against teams which made it into the
final 64, as they beat Arizona and
lost to Nebraska in non-conference
play.
The last time the team played in
the postseason was 2007 after going
15-1 in conference, and they won
two games before being eliminated
in the Sweet Sixteen.

Raiders
continued from page 16
picking apart Oakland's second­
ary. Campbell has been very good
and very bad — and subjected to a
very quick hook.
Gradkowski has been very
good and very bad — and prone
to injury. Campbell has made seven
starts, with the team winning
four. Gradkowski has made four
starts, with the team winning
one. Though each has come off
the bench to manage a victory in a
game started by the other, neither
has truly distinguished himself.
This is not a recipe for reaching
the playoffs.
Truth is, Cable and offensive
coordinator Hue Jackson both
have said, Gradkowski is better
suited to this particular offensive
unit. It implies that Gradkowski's
improvisational skills are particu­
larly valuable behind Oakland's
defensive line and the absence of
play-making wide receivers.
Gradkowski is a better bet to
create something out of nothing.
Then there is the likelihood Cable
is loyal to Gradkowski after his in­
spiring work last season possibly
helped save the coach's job.
But as we've seen in the past,
and on Sunday, Gradkowski is not
the long-term answer.
"I apologize to my team," he
said after completing 17 of 32
passes for 252 yards but throwing
two interceptions.
Meanwhile, there is reason to
believe owner Al Davis, who during
the offseason traded for Campbell,
would like to have seen Campbell
get a chance. Didn't happen.
What now, with a crucial game
Sunday at AFC West rival San Di­
ego?
"I'll go look at it," Cable said.
"I don't know that Bruce is going
to be healthy, based on what I was
just told."
The great likelihood is that
Campbell will be the starter, most­
ly out of necessity — Gradkowski
banged his troublesome throwing
shoulder late in the game.
"It's not easy," Campbell said of
the quarterback controversy. "It's
not an easy thing by (any) means.
You're a competitor, you like to
compete. But by no means are you
understanding or anything. It's
kind of tough being caught right in
between something and you don't
know what's going on."
The Cal Poly women's volleyball team finished the season 22-7 overall and did not receive a bid to the NCAA tournament.

Volleyball ends season without NCAA bid

J.J. Jenkins
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The Cal Poly women's volleyball team season officially ended on Sunday, after the Mustangs did not receive an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. It marks the third-straight year the Mustangs will not play in the NCAA Tournament.

Senior middle hitter Dominique Olowolafe said the team was devastated.

"Everyone is pretty heartbroken. We were pretty excited about competing against some of the top teams in the nation," she said. "I'm so blessed to be a part of this program. I want everyone to keep their heads high, because I'm really proud of what we accomplished this year."

The team battled through injuries to post a 22-7 overall record, going 13-4 in conference. A big win over Arizona opened the Mustang season, but two losses to Cal State Fullerton on what head coach Jon Stevenson characterized as "off nights" probably knocked the team out of postseason contention.

"It's obviously disappointing and not the way we wanted our season to end, but I felt we played great and had a good time. We did what we did and it was left up to (the selection committee)," freshman outside hitter Kristina Graven said.

Fullerton, the winner of the Big West, earned an automatic bid while Long Beach State, which lost twice to the Mustangs, was the only other Big West team to make the tournament.

"More than anything," Stevenson said at Monday's press conference. "I just want to focus on the fact that this team I believe was playing at a level — at the end of the season — that was equal to one of the top 25 teams in the country... I was disappointed that the girls couldn't keep playing and especially for (Dominique Olowolafe) and (Alison Mort), who were just so great for this program that they didn't get a chance to keep competing."

The Mustangs lost two seniors in the offseason, Olowolafe and libero Alison Mort. Olowolafe, who broke her finger early in the season, returned to her usual form midway through the season as she still managed to rack up 213 kills and was awarded her third first-team all conference honor. Her .342 hitting percentage was second on the team, only outdone by sophomore Jennifer Kelsey who hit .364.

Olowolafe's injury was just one of many for the team this season and as the season neared its end, the Mustangs were just finally getting healthy. It's something, Stevenson said, that would have helped the Mustangs come tournament time.

"We would have been healthy for the NCAA Tournament," Stevenson said. "Who knows what would have happened."

Next season, the Mustangs will be in search of a new libero with the departure of Mort, who walked on to the team her freshman year earning her way onto the court. She accumulated 558 digs, nearly a third of the team's total, according to Jennifer Kelsey who hit .364.

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