The debate over gender equality is not new — it is an issue that has been fought over in this country for more than a century. Women and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and ally (LGBTQIA) community are still working to win more recognition and acceptance in society. Sometimes members of these groups in the Cal Poly community still encounter difficulty in overcoming stereotypes and asserting their right to feel safe and accepted.

Despite the many resources available to address gender and LGBTQIA issues and the positive poll results from students, faculty and staff, campus leaders said there is still work to be done.

"All students come to Cal Poly expecting to be safe, successful and to find groups that appeal to their needs," Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Moreno said. "We still have work to do, especially in education."

Some Underrepresented and Many Underreported

The Cal Poly student body is statistically male-dominated: 55.4 percent male compared with 44.6 percent female, according to the Fall 2010 PolyView report, although the number of women increased from 43.9 percent in fall 2009. Christina Kaviani is the coordinator of the Women's Center — or the Gender Equity Center as it will officially become after a ribbon-cutting ceremony this month. Kaviani said there is still a huge need at Cal Poly for programs about female self-esteem and self-awareness.

"We make presentations with (Campus) Housing and to fraternities and sororities about ways to stay safe, but we still need to focus on empowerment," Kaviani said. Though Kaviani said she sees a shift in jobs occurring across the country with more women attending college and holding high professional positions, she believes it is still not equal. She said some men love the idea of stronger women, and some are threatened.

"The idea of 'feminism' means different things to different people — it's intended to mean believing that women should be equal," Kaviani said. "We get pretty good results with our programs and events, but we're continually in a push."

As a women's and gender studies professor, Jane Lehr said women at Cal Poly are overrepresented in some majors and underrepresented in others. Lehr focuses on ways to bring more social aspect into the science, technology, engineering and mathemat­ics (STEM) discipline curriculum.

"There's the idea that women should have some sort of requirement to have a presentation about STEM." Kaviani said.

She said she would like to see more faculty and staff involved in education about sexual assault because the first person some victims go to is their professor.

"Sexual assault is still a big issue and there's more to do with spreading the word about protection," Barbieri said. "People still don't think it could happen to them. We do have more men realizing they could be a part of it."
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State

IRVINE (MCT) — In 2010, 204 companies expanded outside California, moved out completely or decided against moving here — four times the number in 2009, according to Irvine business relocation expert Joe Vranich.

He released his final tally for 2010 — 204 companies vs. 51 in 2009 — adding that he’s sure his list is incomplete.

“For every company departure or disinvestment event that becomes public, there are countless others that we don’t hear about,” he says. “If the event does not become public knowledge, there is no way to add it to the list.”

Vranich says he relies on public records, and some companies leave town with no fanfare. Also, he excludes individual retail stores or restaurants of big chains and firms whose departures appear unrelated to California’s tax and regulation environment.

...  

BAKERSFIELD (MCT) — A Bakersfield couple who have lived in Egypt since 1999 were trying to flee the country Monday amid what the husband described as a chaotic situation on the streets of neighboring one in a Cairo suburb.

Business consultant Douglas Anderson and his wife, Karla, who have family in Bakersfield and own two homes here, were hoping to board a Tuesday flight to Amman, Jordan, where they planned to wait outside the political upheaval convulsing Egypt.

Saying media portrayals of anti-Americanism in Egypt seem overblown, Douglas Anderson sounded calm on his cell phone Monday night. He said he and his wife do not feel threatened, though he noted that some of his neighbors in Cairo’s diplomatic corridor have erected barricades and armed themselves with golf clubs, baseball bats and sticks.

National

FLORIDA (MCT) — The tiny south Florida pharmacy that built a profitable business blowing the whistle on drug companies that over-charge the government won a signals victory Tuesday.

For the first time, one of the companies it reported to authorities had taken the case to court last month. On Tuesday, a Texas jury ordered the company to pay $170 million for cheating the state’s Medicaid program.

That not only means the whistle-blower, Ven-A-Care of the Florida Keys, is in line to get several million dollars in reward money, but it also means the company’s remarkable whistle-blowing winning streak continues.

...  

NORTH CAROLINA (MCT) — North Carolina’s dentists have filed a lawsuit challenging the Federal Trade Commission’s authority to stop them from shutting down tooth-whitening operations at mall kiosks and day spas.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Raleigh, alleges constitutional violations last summer when the FTC charged that the state’s dental board was squelching competition by targeting the whitening services.

The dental board’s lawsuit escalates a disagreement over what constitutes dental practice, and the motivations for making those designations.

Dentists argue that tooth-whitening services are something only a licensed dentist can perform under state law, which stipulates that stain removal is a dental procedure.

Using that law, the dental board in recent years sent letters to whitening operations that had begun proliferating in malls and spas ordering them to stop their services.

The FTC, however, alleged last summer that bleaching teeth is different from stain removal, using a slightly more powerful concentration of chemicals that are widely available in drugstore whitening strips.

International

AUSTRALIA (MCT) — The monster cyclone hurtling toward Australia’s north-east coast was upgraded Wednesday to the maximum category five, and the 300,000 people in its path warned of an impact “more life-threatening than any experienced during recent generations.”

More than 30,000 people have fled Queensland’s far-north ahead of the arrival of tropical Cyclone Yasi, which is expected to make landfall before nightfall within a 55-mile stretch of coast between Cairns and Innisfail.

Weather bureau forecaster Gordon Banks said Yasi was so immense that it would not lose all its power as it hit land but hold its force for hours.

Yasi is expected to be the most destructive ever, easily eclipsing category-four Cyclone Larry, which in 2006 tore through the coastal community of Innisfail, tearing down trees and damaging 10,000 houses.

...  

DENMARK (MCT) — An 11-mile-long tunnel under the Baltic Sea was the preferred option to link Denmark and Germany, Danish politicians said Tuesday.

"An immersed tunnel is something we have experience of," Transport Minister Hans Christian Schmidt said after meeting with the transport committee.

The two countries have for years discussed establishing fixed road- and rail link across the Fehmarn Belt, a strait between the Danish island of Lolland and the German island of Fehmarn.

It is estimated that the link would cost 5.1 billion euros ($7 billion) and reduce travel times between Scandinavia and mainland Europe.

The project is envisaged to be completed in 2020. A final decision on a tunnel or bridge link is pending.
Weather predictions may not always be reliable

Joel Hood
William Mullen
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

By Wednesday night, you’ll know whether the stronger, faster computers of today are any better at predicting severe storms than the weather balloons and pen on paper used in the old days.

The same advanced computer software and satellite images have been tracking the movement of a large storm since it churned off the coast of Los Angeles late last week.

The brute of the massive storm sweeping in from the south was expected to bring high winds and inches of snow, including as much as two feet in parts of Chicago.

The unpredictable nature of severe storms has made a 16 percent chance that Chicago would see at least eight inches of snow, with as much as two feet expected, not always be reliable.

The National Weather Service in Chicago.

castro’s computer models predicted an 85 percent chance that Chicago would see at least eight inches of snow between Tuesday and Wednesday. The odds that the city would see a foot or more was about 75 percent.

A far cry from when meteorologists simply charted rudimentary weather balloon data on a map to gauge the course of the storm, today’s Weather Service computers constantly process atmospheric profiles of temperature, moisture, and winds taken throughout the country by surface observation, weather balloons, satellites, commercial airlines, and advanced weather instrumentation on Weather Service aircraft.

Computer models also have improved, now taking the means of up to 20 different computer-generated scenarios of a storm’s impact, said John Ferre, a severe storm expert at the National Weather Service in Oklahoma. By factoring in uncertainties about how a storm will behave, these models are a vast improvement over the days when computers simply ran one scenario and left the rest up to chance, experts said.

As a result, this “ensemble” method of computer modeling that was not widely used even five years ago has quickly become a critical tool in the science of weather forecasting.

Though computers were used in 1967 and 1979, when forecasting problems were solved with the Weather House, the congressional leaders Republican and Demo­ crats, and House and Senate sit down and craft a long-term plan to get us back on track, said Castro, “I think that would be the best solution.”

In Congress, lawmakers from both parties have begun pushing bipartisan plans aimed at curtailing federal spending, efforts that are proceeding slowly — but they are proceeding.

As he left my office, some of my staff said, ‘Good luck walking off that plank.’ Said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. “This is politically risky. This is like saying ‘to’ when you’re a parent.”

Tuesday she joined Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn, and others to outline a plan to mandate sharply reduced spending over 10 years.

It was the third time in recent days that budget writers have made serious efforts to improve bipartisan dialogue on budget cuts.

Senators Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., and Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., are urging changes in the budget process that would give lawmakers more time to redesign the entitlement programs, especially Medicare and Social Security.

Corker said.

If the 20.6 percent of GDP goal isn’t met, the White House would be required to make “evenly distributed, simultaneous cuts throughout the federal budget.”

The political obstacles are clear.

“People should leave Social Secu­ rity alone,” said Reid, “but if the McCaskill-Corker bill doesn’t solve the problem,” because it doesn’t meet the 40-year spending av­ erage, “I think that would be the best way to proceed because I think it is very important this be done before we get into a debate on the debt-limit extension.”

Congress will consider soon whether to raise the current $14.3 trillion debt ceiling, which could be reached by the end of next month.

Republicans have threatened to hold the effort to raise the debt ceiling hostage until they’ve forced agreements on deep spending cuts — a tactic the Obama administration warns could panic financial markets.

“We’re having serious talk all the time (about deficit reduction),” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. Asked what Rep­ub­li­cans he’s talking to, Reid mentioned a conversation with Conrad, a Democrat.

The McCaskill bill would cap all spending — including Medicare and Social Security — at 20.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product, in line with the 40-year spending av­ erage. Spending currently averages about 24.7 percent of GDP.

The plan would mandate a “glide path” to the lower figure, so the cuts wouldn’t jolt the economy. It would take effect in 2013, giving us time to redesign the entitlement programs, especially Medicare and Social Security,” Corker said.

But the McCaskill-Corker plan is at least an attempt to create the kind of bipartisan solution that President Barack Obama called for in his State of the Union address, analysts said, even though he has done little to promote it.

Some sort of consensus is crucial, since Republicans comfortably con­ trol the House of Representatives and Democrats control 53 of the Senate’s 100 seats.

But the response is: ‘We need to discipline ourselves and future Con­gresses. Let’s put in place procedures that will be difficult to overcome by the next Congress and the next, and the next president.”

Ago that specific cuts will be done, politically. For instance, conservative Republicans are offer­ ing a proposal that would cut $2.5 trillion over 10 years, eliminating or dramatically cutting funds for programs such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Legal Services, and others.

And probably impossible to get through the Senate. But getting the two parties to agree will take enormous political risk.

David Lightman
David Goldenstein
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

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of the movement — they're just as much a part of it as women and can be victims too."

Lehr said she can tell in her Intro to Women's and Gender Studies classes when her students have been abused and knows how hard it is to talk about.

"There's a desire to believe things like that don't happen in a place like San Luis Obispo, but bad things do happen," Lehr said. "The Gender Equity Center does amazing work in reaching out, especially in partnering with fraternities, sororities and dorms."

Morton said from an administrative view he believes Cal Poly has good programs for supporting women, but there are still programs and areas of the school where women are underrepresented and have reported hostility and disinterest from faculty, staff and students. Morton said he also believes the number of sexual assault cases on campus are underreported.

"My intuition says these incidences are happening at a rate that mirrors the country," Morton said. "We need to offer more avenues and access for people to report these incidents and reassure the victims that it is taken seriously."

More of a Spectrum than Black and White

The LGBTQIA community is another group on campus that deals with issues of respect and acceptance. The number of students in the LGBTQIA community is lower at Cal Poly than at other CSU universities, Pride Center Coordinator Erin Echols said.

"On the whole I think the campus is pretty welcoming," Echols said. "I do hear about people getting offended by phrases like 'That's so gay.'"

Echols said there is an interest on campus to be sensitive toward the LGBTQIA community, but she often hears from people outside of the LGBTQIA community that they can't keep up with the changing terminology. Echols said she believes the trend of acceptance is attributable to more students having gay friends and gay alliances at their high schools.

"It's becoming more socially accepted, and people are more comfortable with the issue than they were five or 10 years ago," Echols said. "At the Pride Center, we try to be as visible as possible and encourage more discussion."

Echols said the Pride Center offers Ally Training sessions four times a quarter, or more if a specific group requests a session.

The Pride Center is also currently pushing for increasing the number of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. There are just under 500 state-maintained restrooms on campus, according to a report by Facilities, and 24 are unisex or "non-gendered" restrooms.

Civil engineering sophomore Paul Armer is the housing liaison for the Pride Center, and said as a student he has had experiences with people refusing to sit near him or speak to him if he is wearing something that makes it clear that he is gay.

"But there are also the people who surprise you with how understanding they are; there are more of those," Armer said. "It's cool to know that I can be gay and in a major that isn't stereotypically a major that gay people are a part of and not be judged."

Armer said he was afraid of living in the dorms when he arrived at Cal Poly as a freshman, but Campus Housing pushes for diversity and acceptance in incoming classes.

"The idea of male or female is becoming more of a spectrum for some people than just black and white," Armer said. "There are some people who don't identify with either group."

Armer said the Cal Poly community is actively seeking more information and more ways to be involved in the Pride Center's efforts. According to the Pride Center website, there are 194 students and 103 faculty, staff and Campus Housing employees who are involved in or have completed Ally Training since 2007. Armer said he has seen a huge influx of people who want to complete the training since he became involved with the Pride Center.

Lehr said the staff and student work in the Pride Center has been fantastic, especially with the attention paid to transgender students.

"The problem of homophobia isn't just a problem for the LGBT community," Lehr said. "It's also used to police the norms of male and female behavior, like the idea of men crying or women sticking up for themselves."

Within the last 15 years, students have become more open to a wider range of interpersonal relationships, Lehr said, but they do still live in a world with homophobic stereotypes.

"Some people think that if we just wait 50 years everything will get better, but that's not true — we need to act now if we want to see a difference," Lehr said.

Conn said from his experience, larger offenses like the crops sciences incident don't happen too often, but smaller, more continuous offenses can be more upsetting.

"A few years ago during Pride Week someone painted the rainbow on the "P" back to white — things like that say a lot symbolically," Conn said.

Morton said the university is making progress in supporting the LGBTQIA community, but there are still people who say and do things that are manifestations of stereotypes.

"When I attend programs put on by the Pride Center, I do see a pretty good cross-section of students," Morton said. "There's some great support out there, but there's also a need for students to engage in discussions of how this diversity can enrich their experience."

GLAM GUIDE

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Spice up your vocabulary with dirty talk

Caitlyn Harkins is an English suportomm, Mustang Daily copy editor and sex columnist.

There you are: lights off, under the sheets getting down and it's going good. But then, your partner pauses and whispers those four little words in your ear. "Talk dirty to me."

"Shit. You don't know what to say. But you're put on the spot with no way out because you're already in. So what do you do? Do you awkwardly pretend you didn't hear and continue thrusting? Or do you accept the challenge and prepare to give your partner the verbal lowdown they want?"

Of course, it can be daunting to take a (very brief) moment to assess what was going on before your partner asked you to be dirty.

Were you completely silent? There is nothing sexy about someone staring intensity ahead of them while thrusting quietly. Your partner may be wondering if it's not feeling good for you or may get self-conscious for being, inauspicious compared to your monk-like focus.

If you really don't know what to do, make some moans and throw in a few 'ohs' and 'yehs.' It gives the impression you're having an awe-some time—which you definitely should be.

But really, what people are looking for when they want dirty talk is one of three things: they want to be sold how good it's going, what is about to happen or why you're doing something to them.

The tone of your dirty talk can take on either a dominant or submissive style. It's easy to slip into those roles: either focus on what you're doing to them or what they are doing to you.

You can praise your partner for doing that special thing with their tongue, or firmly tell your partner that they need to roll over, move their hips up, etc.

For example, a good line may be "Oh yeah, you like that? I'm going to spank you hard like the naughty girl you are."

The example incorporates all four swear words and the ever pervasive f-bomb. If your partner starts to react well, you can take it up to the next level.

Getting even naughtier can incorporate common anatomical terms (clitoral, vaginal, anal) and prepare you to give your partner the verbal lowdown they want.

Dirty talk is like "Inception"—one thing leads into another. For example, a good line may be "Oh yeah, you like that? I'm going to spank you hard like the naughty girl you are."

The same goes for intense name-calling, like bitch, slut and other sobbad-they're-sometimes-good terms.

If you're with a girl who likes being called one of those, there is a solid chance she'll be asking you to call her that already.

Which brings me to my last point: If you want to talk dirty, don't feel uncomfortable about it. Bring it up in a non-sexual situation if you really want to maso out what things they may like to hear (as in, don't already naked if you want to have a serious discussion—wait until the blood flows back to your brain from your genitals).

So did you like that, readers? Yeah, I knew you would. You dirty readers.

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SLOMA offers drop-in watercolor classes

Katelein Sweigart  
KATELEIN.SWEIGART.MU@GMAIL.COM

For less than the cost of a movie ticket and popcorn, the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is holding a drop-in art class where anyone can learn the basics of watercolor painting.

Show up for $15 — or $12 for members — and SLOMA provides the space, material and instruction by professional art teacher Mary-anne Nucci. The class is held every Saturday in February from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"I'll spend 30 minutes, 40 minutes demonstrating, talking about what we're going to do," Nucci said. "Then the rest is everybody goes to work. So it's easy to get around to each student and spend time (with them)."

Nucci has taught watercolor painting at Cuesta College for 23 years, as well as various classes held at SLOMA. This is her first time teaching a drop-in class, but she said it's a great idea.

"To commit to every Saturday in February is a big deal," she said. "But to say, 'Oh this Saturday I'm going to go and paint' — it's a great idea."

Nucci said her lesson plan will be dependent on the students who attend the class — whether or not they are new to painting in general or just need feedback on their own pieces, and just how large the class is. She plans to go over the basics, like creating edges and mixing paints.

"It has this stigma of being really hard to work with — it's not," Nucci said. "I really love working in watercolor."

The drop-in class format is something new to SLOMA. The program began last fall and has been going for several months as an experiment. Last January, the museum offered drop-in acrylic classes.

Gallery manager and registrar of SLOMA Wendy Walter said the nicest thing about the drop in classes is the fact that guests can attend just once with no commitment, or as many times as they like.

"It depends on what you want to get out of the class," Walter said. "Whether it be beginners or someone who just wanted to get pointers."

Cali Poly art professor and international portrait artist Tricia Reichert said she encourages people to take lessons in watercolor. She recently published a manual on observational watercolor painting titled "The Watercolor Journaling Handbook." She said watercolor painting is a "very easy medium" that requires little in the way of supplies while at the same time being expressive and full of variety.

"Draw a little, paint a little, have sketch with a little bit of color or a full painting," Reichert said. "It's a great medium for painting outside, for journaling, for little tiny sketches of things that you love."

Watercolor isn't only an art form; it can be a form of therapy when an artist is stressed or frustrated. At least, that's what artist and owner of Loma offers drop-in watercolor classes
the art supplies store Art Central Envy Pacifico believes.

"It's cheaper than a shrink," Pacifico said. "It's extremely good therapy. Even (for) somebody with absolutely no artistic knowledge, understanding or even appreciation."

Pacifico said she has put paper and materials down for her friends and offered them the words of encouragement: "Don't think, just do."

"It's a wonderful way to express yourself and if you give yourself the freedom to do it, and don't have any expectations of what it's going to look like or what it's going to feel like, it could be extremely cathartic," she said.

Those who are more interested in watercolor artists living on the Central Coast can attend the grand opening of Art Central on Feb. 4, where the Central Coast Watercolor Society (CCWS) will display their works.

Cal Poly students can get the "Student Membership Package" at the lowest package price of $20 a year. Members get discounts on all classes, special invitations to shows and exhibitions and receive a monthly newsletter. Members can also display and sell their artwork at SLOMA, as well as join special interest groups like CCWS.

Yvonne Villarreal
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Towering above her pint-sized cohort in blue suede heels, Heidi Klum was doing what she does best: seducing the camera.

She wasn't preening sexually in lingerie, as you might expect from a former Victoria's Secret model, nor was she standing in judgment of a couture gown, as befits the host and executive producer of "Project Runway." On this particular day, the TV camera panned in as the German bombshell flailed her arms, stuck out her tongue and, yes, did the Roger Rabbit dance.

In one of this year's strangest career transitions, Klum is shifting from glamorous to goofy. Her new Lifetime series "Seriously Funny Kids," which premieres Tuesday night, is the latest program to elicit the honesty of young children. Also incorporated into the show are hidden camera bits, including one that finds the sexy host sporting an unlikely accessory: "slimy boogers."

"We thought it was a no-brainer," said John Alfano, Lifetime's head of entertainment. "As an ambas­
dador for the network, we love being in business with (Heidi). And it's a side we don't often see. She's some­one mostly known as a supermodel. You don't think of her as being silly, and fun and effervescent."

Although she's a mother to four children younger than 6, Klum admitted that her interactions with the kids on the show were more difficult than she expected.

"When you deal with grown-ups, they always kind of know where you want to go when you ask a certain question," she said. "When you're talking to Jay Leno or (David) Let­
terman, there's this kind of routine about it. You're there to tell a funny story as you try to promote some­thing. But when you do it with kids, it doesn't really work the same way. At all."

But there are always the adults of her other Lifetime series to balance it all — even if attempts to reach some of them (Tim Gunn, Michael Kors) to comment on Klum proved unsuc­
cessful.

Klum insisted that her involve­ment in "Seriously Funny Kids" doesn't mean a death knell for "Proj­
ect Runway," which will shoot its ninth season this summer.

"Look, "Project Runway" isn't go­ing anywhere," she said. "And I don't think if something ends that I have to hurry up and find the next thing. If 'Seriously Funny Kids' would have come four years ago, I would have done it then. I just thought it was a good idea."

It's an idea that further broadens her reach beyond the supermodel guise, in the vein of fellow-runway troter Tyra Banks — who solid­i­fied herself as brand with "America's Next Top Model," "The Tyra Banks Show," philanthropic foundations and a production company.

After more than a decade as a face (and body) of Victoria's Secret, Klum announced last fall that she was part­ing ways with the lingerie giant to end — I have to do something different! I want to do something different. And the world doesn't end. When someone hangs up their 'wings' there's always someone new ready to take them. That's just how things are."

Klum has a dizzying number of projects in motion. She recently an­nounced plans to partner with frag­rance company Coty Inc. to create a perfume called Heidi Klum Shine. She's a clothing designer (recently fashioning maternity clothes for A Pea in the Pod and Motherhood Maternity), a jewelry designer (her Mouwad jewelry collection de­buted on QVC in 2006), a television host ("Project Runway," "Germany's Next Top Model") and the face of a European cosmetics company Astor.

And on top of all of that, now she's extracting comical quips from children for "Seriously Funny Kids" — and finding that they really do say the darnedest things.

"Yesterday I was talking with a kid and she was like, 'I know you! My mama told me that you sold panties!'" she recalled. "You can't control what your legacy is."

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**Model goes from ‘glamorous to goofy’**

**Watercolor**

continued from page 7

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**Dates That Left You Dazzled!**

The Mustang Daily wants to hear about your Best Date! What did you do together? Did you have a great time? Did you feel in love? Tell us your story in 100 words or less. We will award a diamond heart necklace valued at $90 to a winner chosen at random.

All That Glitters Jewelry Store
1925 Madonna Rd
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**Date: _Your Date_**

**Location: _Your Location_**

**What Happened: _Your Story_**

Name: __________________________

Email: __________________________

Tell us how the Mustang Daily made a MARK on your college career and get a free shirt!

Alex DeVries & Solomon Reda
Business & Industrial Technology

"It's cool to have updates on Cal Poly's President."
America, spend today to invest in tomorrow

Jeremy Cutchler is a political science senior and Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

Last week, President Obama gave his annual State of the Union address, outlining the path his administration would take over the next two years. As many pundits and journalists predicted, the policy proposals he outlined are more centrist. Yet, many Conservatives still disparage his ideas as the usual liberal business of taxing and spending.

Obama began his speech picking up on the same line he left off in his last speech in Tucson, calling on Americans to make this country the democracy we believed it could be in 2008. Obama said the U.S. invested more resources to education so that "what's best for our kids." He highlighted his administration's Race to the Top program, which put more of the federal government's attention on how our education system is doing. The program is his programs for their respective states.

Education is one of the best investments the federal government can make. All we need to do is look at our own tuition fees and see that education is becoming so expensive it is out of reach for students. Deferring more money to education can help keep costs down. Furthermore, if we use wages as a proxy for value to society, teachers do not rank very high given their meager salaries.

Obama called this our "Sputnik moment" — this is the moment in recessions, aggregate consumer demand falls, which triggers businesses to cut back production (including layoffs) as their revenue falls.

Thus, according to Keynesian theory, the government, which is the only institution that has the mass resources, must spend more to compensate for the lost consumer demand and help ameliorate the depths and effects of the recession.

It is precisely what the Obama administration did, not to mention that the Stimulus Bill, in terms of the number of Americans affected, was the largest tax cut in history, with $282 billion of the $787 billion going to tax cuts, though Conservatives always claim it solely as a huge spending bill.

It will be interesting to chart the course of Obama's presidency over the next two years. Surely, it will focus more on fiscal issues than social issues. No doubt there is a lot of spending outlined in his State of the Union address. It will be interesting to see if the country accepts his plan of investing in a new America. It will also be interesting to see how the public no longer allows the government to pay for it (it seems like some sort of tax increases will be necessary).

Thus, according to Keynesian theory, the government, which is the only institution that has the mass resources, must spend more to compensate for the lost consumer demand and help ameliorate the depths and effects of the recession. But before Republicans take credit for making Obama move more towards the center, they must not forget that Obama came into office with a huge democratic majority in both houses of Congress. The politically expedient plan for Obama and the Democrats was to pass legislation that would not pass under other circumstances such as financial regulation and, most notably, health care reform, which administrations had been attempting to pass since the Great Depression.

And Republicans take credit for making Obama being more fiscally responsible, they must not forget that Obama came into office in the midst of the worst recession since the Great Depression. Conservatives love to mention the increase in federal spending under Obama, but constantly fail to mention the context.

Macroeconomic theory states that in recessions, aggregate consumer demand falls, which triggers businesses to cut back production (including layoffs) as their revenue falls.
started as the Bruins' third-string receiver, catching 59 receptions for 695 yards and five touchdowns, one in particular that still makes some UCLA faithful kick themselves for the fact that a playmaker got away.

"He was a good-sized, athletic player who was able to make natural plays," Moore said. "His ability was tremendous. He had some of those intangibles and tools that you just can't coach."

At Cal Poly, where he graduated in December with a bachelor's degree in history, it was the same story. Johnson quickly made good impressions. He struggled catches others couldn't, used his body to make the tough plays and used his athleticism to stretch a small gain where others couldn't, used his body to make the tough plays and used his athleticism to stretch a small gain.

"He made me look great a lot of times," Smith said. "He is probably the best football player I have ever played with. He has a look in his eyes on game day that is unlike any­thing I have ever seen before."

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Johnson isn't projected to be a first-round pick. There is one hurdle keeping the former Mustang from becoming the highest Cal Poly player taken in the NFL draft. It's the same difficulty that keeps former Cal Poly wide receiver Ramon Barden, who nearly broke all receiving records in his career at Cal Poly, from being drafted no higher than the third round.

His speed.

"Scouts have me projected at running a 4.62," Johnson said. "If I can run 4.5 on my pro day or in the combine, I know that is only going to benefit me. Hopefully, it shows me up the charts."

To those closest to him, there is no doubt in their minds he will achieve his goal. Johnson is fighting his weakest link with his strongest — his motivation.

"Since moving to Arizona, Johnson has been hard at work. Scenes of artificial field turf and dumbbells are starting to become his life. Johnson is currently working harder than he ever did at Cal Poly, he said. He goes through five day-a-week workouts with two two-a-days twice a week. Drills range from NFL combine drills, to one-on-ones with defensive backs or weightlifting exercises.

"He deserves it."

"If it does come, Johnson's child­hood dream will have come true. He will have come a long way from the freshman wide receiver at UCLA — or the threat at Cal Poly. He has put himself and newly hired agent John Perez — enter draft weekend, they will be leaving it with an NFL contract, Shorter said."

"I am praying," Shorter said."

"It is working with the Mustangs to strengthen the areas that struggled in his career at Cal Poly, from be­ing drafted no higher than the third round."

"He is the kind of kid that goes out there every day and does it," Shorter said. "I don't have to ask three times a week about his pro­tein intake, he is doing all of that by himself. He is doing everything I am asking him to do."

"That is why there is no doubt in Shorter's mind that Johnson's name will be called on draft day. Cue the lights, because when Johnson — and newly hired agent John Perez — enter draft weekend, they will be leaving it with an NFL contract, Shorter said."

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"He deserves it."

"If it does come, Johnson's child­hood dream will have come true. He will have come a long way from the freshman wide receiver at UCLA — or the threat at Cal Poly."

"He is extremely strong and work ethic; he is not one of those guys that take any drills off," Shorter said. "No matter how tired he is, no matter what the challenges are, he works his way through it. No matter how bad I have chal­lenged him, he has filled the bill."

Even when he isn't working on the physical side of it, Johnson is a student of the craft. He asks tough questions and makes sure he is not only training his body, but doing so to the right way.

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"The (preseason) practices have been really well organized," Orting said. "They're really working hard and they do a lot of really good drills."

Orting, who used to play baseball and softball, also said the new players look like naturals.

"Players like Ashley Romano at second base and Kim Westland at shortstop — they have all the right moves and coordination," he said.

Cahn and Patton both agreed. They said the sense of energy and determination in this new group of athletes could be the push they need to finish on top.

The team's ultimate goal is to make it to Oklahoma City this year to have the chance to compete for a national championship. The first game on Feb. 11 is at Arizona State University. It will be the first test to see if the Mustangs are adapting to a young team and overcoming the ob­stacles previously holding them back.
'Small school' kid looks for big break

Dominique Johnson hopes to become the next 'small school' draft surprise

Brian De Los Santos
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Former Cal Poly wide receiver Dominique Johnson looks up to guys like NFL star Marques Colston. He has done what he wants to. Despite playing football at a school not surrounded by national spotlight — Hofstra University — Colston is now a starting wide receiver in the NFL.

Even beyond the Saints' wide out, the list goes on. Guys like Vincent Jackson and Terrell Owens are just some names of those who did themselves of "small school" labels and went on to be known not for their alma maters, but for the plays they make on Sundays.

Come the next NFL season, Johnson hopes to be the latest name to make the list.

"I know that coming from a small school it can hurt you, but it's not the end of the road," Johnson said. "I'm just a case of the 'small school' guy who get drafted. The harder I work at it, the better position I put myself in for having my name called on draft weekend."

Johnson has trained for months and, for one of the few times before the NFL draft, he will be able to show off his skill set to NFL scouts this weekend. He will showcase his abilities in the Dixie Gridiron Classic, slated to take place this Saturday at noon in St. George, Utah.

"Playing at a smaller school you don't get the same kind of exposure as the guys at a 1-A school get," Johnson said. "That is why I think it was so big to get invited to an All-Star game. It gives me an opportunity to play in front of those scouts running a different type of offense, they get to see me practice and then see what I can do against guys from I-A schools."

Still, Johnson is fighting tremendous odds. He is one of the hundreds of players who have sent their highlight reels to scouts in search of making the dream of playing on Sunday a reality.

But people still see his talent and natural ability. There is a certain skill set Johnson possesses that extends past the 90 receptions, 1,375 yards and 10 touchdowns he racked up at Cal Poly. It has driven tennis professional Ben Shurter, who is training Johnson in Arizona, to compare him to a younger Larry Fitzgerald. And it is the reason his former UCLA wide receivers coach Reggie Moore said, had he stayed at UCLA, he would have been groomed to be one of the best receivers in the Pac-10.

"I saw a lot of potential," Moore said.

BY THE NUMBERS

| Receptions | 90 |
| Yards | 1,375 |
| Yards per catch | 15.27 |
| Touchdowns | 10 |
| Long | 75 |
| Games played | 20 |
| Yards per game | 88.75 |

Former Cal Poly wide receiver Dominique Johnson (9) was part of a passing offense that gained 2,967 yards over the past two seasons.

Softball tabbed as Big West preseason favorite in 2011 poll

Amber Kiwan
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Last season ended with a devastating letdown for the Cal Poly softball team, but the players are embracing the renewed sense of optimism that comes with a new team: a fresh start and most importantly, hindsight.

Expectations are high. Cal Poly was picked to win the Big West in the Big West Preseason Softball Coaches Poll.

To get there, learning from the past will be key. The Mustangs head into the season with nine new members on the team, an important aspect considering players cited inexperience as a main cause of the losing season.

"We had a relatively young team and we were kind of inexperienced in college softball," senior pitcher Anna Cahn said. "We didn't do as well as we thought we would."

The Mustangs started last season strong. They boasted an 8-2 record to start conference play, but lost their footing down the stretch and finished the season 12-9 and 23-24 overall.

This year, of the 16 total players, 13 are freshman or sophomores. In addition, new associate head coach Linda Garza adds one more name to the long list of Mustang newcomers.

But Cahn said the mentality is different now, and with that new mentality came a new sense of determination.

"I feel like last year we didn't come together as well as we should have," Cahn said. "Now everyone is really encouraging. Since I've been here, it's the best chemistry our team has had."

Head coach Jenny Condon agreed. Condon said the team is cohesive, with purely positive thoughts and increased competition in their playing.

But the source of the optimism and momentum this year is still the exact thing the Mustangs cited as the cause of their demise in 2010.

The five seniors who helped lead the Mustangs to the Big West title in the 2009 season left the team, therefore adding five new freshmen to the 2010 roster.

Cahn said the shock of new members, filling the spots of the seniors, who were all four-year starters, contributed to the team's inexperience and in turn, the losing season.

"The coaching staff said there were other weaknesses as well. "There are a lot of factors that played into (the loss)," Cahn said.

Johnson was certainly en route to big things with the Pac-10 school. At UCLA, Johnson was the next 'small school' draft surprise. But Condon said the upperclassmen have stepped up as leaders and the coaching staff has greatly im-