Seismic shake-up places Cal Poly second at international competition

Katelyn Sweigart
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Cal Poly's Seismic Design team placed second out of 28 teams at the 2011 Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI)'s undergraduate Seismic Design competition last weekend.

The competition gives teams several months to come up with a 5-foot-tall balsa wood skyscraper. The structure is then placed on a shake table, which simulates the historical El Centro 1940 and Northridge 1994 earthquakes. The third earthquake is created by UC Davis graduate students, and is specifically made to topple the structures.

"A few of people have spoken to us since the simulcast, and they are quite impressed," said student Katelyn Sweigart. "They all said the performance exceeded expectations." "It was a big shock to us," Sweigart added. "We were told we were going to win the competition," she said. "We came in so cocky and confident that we were going to win the thing," she said. "Then we see the accelerometer fall and the whole crowd was like 'Awwww!'" Sweigart said.

"We came in so cocky and confident...then we see the accelerometer fall," said Yoni Sadka.

"It's one of the heaviest penalties in the competition," architectural engineering senior Kevin Chen said of the team's setback. "It has the potential of reducing the score by half." Even after the fall, the team still managed to place second above 26 other teams.

The goal of the competition is to present the best design and predict how it will fair in earthquakes, as well as give a presentation and create a poster. Architectural engineering senior Yoni Sadka said he believes Cal Poly put in more work on the "Diadem" (the name of the structure) than any other school, when it "rocked" the presentation and had the closest prediction.

"We came in so cocky and confident that we were going to win the thing," he said. "Then we see the accelerometer fall and the whole crowd was like "Awwww!""

The accelerometer is a palm-sized device, weighing 3.5 pounds, placed on the top of the structure. It measures the acceleration of motion during the simulated earthquakes. If it falls, it may result in disqualification.

Sadka said he left the competition early with some teammates, crushed over the loss. He got a text from one of the judges, who is a Cal Poly alumna, that read they placed second. "I pulled the car over and we just looked at each other and we were like, 'No, she's just messing with us,'" Sadka said.

They called their teammates, but couldn't reach anyone. Finally, a teammate sent them a picture of the trophy and realization hit them. "It was cool; going from not placing at all to getting second was better than nothing," he said.

Kevin Chen, an architectural engineering senior, participated in the club as part of his senior project. He said he still cannot get over the shock of winning after expecting the worst. "It's one of the heaviest penalties in the competition," Chen said. "It has the potential of reducing the score by half."

James Myers, a civil engineering junior on the team, said the judges were able to overlook the rule involving the accelerometer. "We didn't fall over, so the building didn't fall," he said. "Once the structure proved it could
There are differing levels of legitimacy," he said. "But when I talk to people I want to know a person for who they are regardless of what they've done in their past. We all make mistakes, and we want to know any criticisms of us so that we don't have to be defined by them."

SLO Crusade students agreed, and said sometimes Christians' motives are questioned, especially when they are talking to others about Jesus Christ.

"As Christians, we know that (spreading the message of Jesus Christ) is not done well by a lot of other Christians in the world," Bible study leader and Cal Poly alumna Ali Miller said. "So it can be hard to approach people with the motive to just love them and show them the love that we know God has for them, when other people have done that wrongly."

This does not completely discourage them. SLO Crusade still gathers for 'sharing' every Tuesday and Thursday morning, by attempting to start spiritual conversations with students on campus.

Liberal studies senior and SLO Crusade member Amanda Mervich said although some students do not want to talk, most are willing and leave the conversation encouraged.

Spiritual conversation has the potential to guide those who are non-religious or confused, or to help strengthen religious beliefs that a person may already have, according to SLO Crusade members.

But sometimes this does not apply, as general truths of most religious organizations are seen as superstition to the Cal Poly Brights.

The Brights is a club for nontheist (those who do not believe in a personal god), nonreligious students and their allies.

"Nonreligious people are often viewed as hateful and untrustworthy," Brights president Austin Mello said. "Our goal is to show that people without superstition such as faith can be good, moral people."

Mello said the Brights are always looking for ways to work together with students of different spiritual beliefs, but he often finds that other groups are not receptive.

In addition, the Brights said campus events aimed at including every diverse group and belief system were often the ones they felt most uncomfortable in.

For example, Week of Welcome (WOW), which is supposed to cater to every possible interest among incoming freshmen might have, whether it is in a religious group, professional organization or other special interest clubs, was a time when most Brights members said they felt left out.

"WOW had a religious panel speak to us, and they said they had representatives from all religions," computer science sophomore Kelby Daniels said. "But there was no one representing anything close to this point of view."

The Brights were not the only ones who reported feeling discrimination or discomfort because of their beliefs. SLO Crusade students said there were times when they also felt this way;

"In class one time, we were using the Bible as an example of how Christianity promotes man-dominant society; it was really misinterpreted," social sciences senior Sarah Wurthrock said. "The whole class jumped on it. It was a situation where I felt that if I would've said I was a Christian, it would've been looked down upon."

But SLO Crusade is the largest religious organization on campus and part of America's religious majority (77.8 percent of American adults identify as Christians), according to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

On the other hand, only 0.6 percent of Americans identify as Muslims, according to the Pew Forum, which might translate into Muslim students at Cal Poly being a minority as well. And according to a Time Magazine poll, more than four out of 10 Americans said they have an unfavorable view of Islam.

Yes, Maryam Nasim said she has never felt directly discriminated against at Cal Poly and neither has freshman MSA member Amr Mabrouk.

Mabrouk said since she arrived at Cal Poly at the beginning of this year, she has always felt accepted.

"I pray five times a day, so I have no other choice but to pray in my dorm," Mabrouk said. "People have asked me what I'm doing, but I've never felt offended or stereotyped in any way."

Through these students said prejudice is not affecting them, Cal Poly and the San Luis Obispo community still have room to grow in the areas of knowledge and religious education.

These ideas are the guiding principles behind "A Taste of Islam, A 6-week Introduction to the Faith of Muslims," a lecture hosted by five San Luis Obispo religious organizations open to all members of the community.
Tuesday Tunes

What are you listening to?

- Six Foot Seven Foot by Lil Wayne
- Six Feet Under Me by Drake
- A Hotel Room by Paul Simon
- Rainy Days by One Way
- Brother on a Hotel Bed by Lil Wayne
- Friends Call the Doctor by Nles and Elise
- Brothers on a Hotel Bed by Drake
- Friends Call the Doctor by Nles and Elise
- Brothers on a Hotel Bed by Drake
- Friends Call the Doctor by Nles and Elise

Steven Thomma
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

President Barack Obama on Monday proposed a federal budget for fiscal 2012 that would pare back recent budget deficits, but still add nearly $7 trillion to the nation's debt over the next decade.

Obama stressed that his plan would slash the federal budget deficit by $544 billion in one year, from $1.6 trillion this year to $1.1 trillion in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

He also emphasized that his budget for fiscal 2012 and the following decade would cut the red ink by $1.1 trillion from what it would total if current policies were left unchanged. He'd do it with a combination of spending cuts and tax increases.

But that falls far short of the recommendations from his own bipartisan budget deficit commission, which in November urged cutting deficits over the coming decade by $4 trillion.

Republicans won't even wait for the next fiscal year to start before cutting spending. They plan to start cutting current year spending, with votes in the GOP-led House of Representatives this week, though final terms must be set through negotiations with the Democratic-led Senate and Obama.

"He's going to present a budget ... that will continue to destroy jobs by spending too much, borrowing too much and taxing too much," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"It looks to me that it is going to be very small on spending discipline and a lot of new spending on so-called investments," said House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "Borrowing and spending is not the way to prosperity. Today's deficits mean tomorrow's tax increases, and that costs jobs," Ryan said on "Fox News Sunday."

Obama aides said the budget would set up a clash of ideas with the Republican-controlled House over how best to rein in the government's soaring deficits and skyrocketing national debt.

Obama proposed that the government spend $3.7 trillion next year, down $100 billion from this year's $3.8 trillion.

One factor that would keep spending in check: a freeze on the domestic part of the budget that doesn't include Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security or security spending such as the FBI.

Also, national defense spending would drop 5 percent next year as troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan and Iraq.

As spending would stay roughly the same, tax collections would jump by $453 billion, or 21 percent, helping to slash the deficit.

One big factor in the increased tax collections: an increase in the Social Security tax paid by all American workers regardless of income, starting in January 2013.

"It is determined not only to cut more, but to start immediately," Ryan said on "Fox News Sunday.

Obama largely ignored the recommendations of the bipartisan budget commission, which in November urged more than $4 trillion in cuts to projected deficits over the next decade. He didn't propose any changes in the biggest domestic spending programs — entitlements including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid — which the commission said must be revised if the debt is ever to be controlled.

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Obama's budget will add trillions in debt

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The classes are led by Rev. Rashdi Abdul Cader, a practicing Muslim, religious studies professor Stephen Lloyd-Moffett and Rev. Jane Voigts of the San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church.

"We wanted to have an opportunity for the community to come together to learn about Islam with no agenda other than to help people understand," Lloyd-Moffett said.

He said unbiased education about the faith of Islam is something everybody, including the Cal Poly community, needs.

"I have a fundamental belief that most people are well-intentioned," Lloyd-Moffett said. "Yet when I hear what people say about Islam, it's a mixture of fear and ignorance."

Lloyd-Moffett said he felt those with the knowledge to teach Islam, like Voigts, Abdul Cader and himself had a responsibility to eradicate this ignorance.

The classes are being taught with a combination of lecture and study of "No god but God" by Reza Aslan, a book about the origins, evolution and future of Islam.

In addition to learning about Islam, Voigts said there is also a firm emphasis on fun and friendship. The classes take place Thursdays right before Farmers' Market, which Voigts said is the perfect place to go hang out with new friends after the lectures.

"It's as much about learning Islam as it is about building community," Voigts said. "Hopefully, we will be building community across religious lines."

who kind of popularized the term 'cougar' around the world." Gosse said. "The term 'cougar' didn't become famous until 2001 when Barofsky often has been sharply critical of the way the Treasury Department has run the Troubled Asset Relief Program. He has headed the Office of the Special Inspector General for TARP, known as SIGTARs, which has more than 140 auditors in five offices nationwide.

In the resignation later, Barofsky said he had accomplished his top goals for overseeing the fund and it was time for him to leave government service.

... 
LOUISIANA (MCT) — Blighted and vacant homes continue to plague Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in New Orleans, said state Emergency Management Coordinator Pat Goins.

"We had been doing parties around the world before the term 'cougar' was invented," Goins said.

"Cougaring has been going on for thousands of years," Goins said. "The term 'cougar' didn't become famous until 2001 when Neil M. Barofsky, executive producer of the documentary "The Big C: An Interdisciplinary Conversation on Cancer in the 21st Century," directed by the University of Southern California's Dr. Anika Leithner, said time constraints were an obstacle the team had to overcome when meeting.

"It was very difficult to schedule times that everybody could meet and get everybody on track as far as what needed to be done," Hagen said. "I think everybody involved did a really good job in making it happen."
Cal Poly CLA hosts Liberal Arts Week

CLA Ambassadors have worked to put together the 2011 Liberal Arts Week. CLA Ambassadors vice president Lauren Duffy said this year they want to "draw in all majors that might not typically see it in their best interest to attend CLA-related activities."

Victoria Zabel

The Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts (CLA), in conjunction with CLA Ambassadors and CLA Student Council, will host Liberal Arts Week from Feb. 15 to 17. Liberal Arts Week is an annual event held to showcase the CLA, and to promote the unique skills CLA students bring to the Cal Poly campus.

"Really, Liberal Arts Week is a chance to develop an awareness of all the CLA has to offer to the university," said Pacey Bennett, special assistant to the dean for student success in the CLA. "Liberal Arts Week was a staple at the university for many years, but the university for many years, but it took a small hiatus when Susan Currier, former CLA associate dean, died in 2006. Currier had been the adviser to Liberal Arts Week, and after her passing there was a "transition period" for the college, Bennett said.

"Liberal Arts Week was a big deal for a long time, but after Susan passed away it lost direction for a bit," Bennett said. "Since I began in my current position three years ago, I have seen a steady rise in the quality of the event."

Part of what enabled Liberal Arts Week to gain momentum has been student involvement, Bennett said. A major student contributor to this year's event is political science junior Lauren Duffy, who is vice president of the CLA Ambassadors and co-chair of Liberal Arts Week.

"I participated in last year's Liberal Arts Week and I knew it wasn't meeting its full potential," Duffy said. "I saw that improvement needed to be made, and I knew that I wanted to be a part of that."

This year CLA has made an effort to include all majors in the week's events. Liberal Arts Week is a way for the college to show non-CLA majors that they can be involved with the college too, whether through clubs or taking on a minor, Duffy said.

"Our lecture line-up is fairly diverse," Duffy said. "We really wanted to draw in majors that might not typically see it in their best interest to attend CLA-related activities."

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, the festivities will kick off with performances by a cappella groups "That's the Key" and "Take it SLO" at 11 a.m. in front of Campus Market. As of 8 p.m. in UU 219 there will be a lecture presented by Lewis Call from the history department entitled "Why I Love the History of Science Fiction."

Wednesday will feature a senior project showcase and free barbecue on Dexter Lawn from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 8 to 9 p.m., there will be a lecture given by assistant professor of women's and gender studies and ethnic studies Jane Lehr, biologist sciences alumna Michelle Beam and professor of biological sciences Elena Keeley called "The Big C: an Interdisciplinary Conversation on Cancer in the 21st Century."

Thursday will involve a CLA club and minor showcase in the UU from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Political science professor Anika Leitner will give a lecture that evening from 8 to 9 p.m. in UU 219, "America a World Bully."

The list of events for Liberal Arts Week 2011 has grown over the past three years, Bennett said.

"Lauren and her team included the senior project showcase and the performances in this year's event, and I think they are going to be very popular," Bennett said. "The club and minor showcase always draws a big crowd."

The Cal Poly chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is one of the clubs participating in the showcase. Club president Kelsey Magnuson said it's "an awesome" way for the club to promote itself.

"It's so important for PRSSA to establish a presence in the CLA," she said. "PRSSA is open to all students, CLA-major or not, and we're not sure about the student body. We want CLA students to know that we're here to help them with all things concerning professional development."

Duffy said she hopes students from all over campus will attend not only the club and minor showcase but all of the events during the week.

"At the end of the day, we really just want CLA and non-CLA students to understand the diversity of our college," Duffy said. "We have fun; we're creative. We want people to appreciate all of the hard work we do every day."
Celebrate Single’s Awareness Day with the grapefruit

Heather Rockwood is a food science junior and Mustang Daily food columnist.

Yesterday, half the population rejoiced for a day dedicated to the joy and recognition of being in a relationship, and thousands of couples celebrated by taking their special someone out to eat or buying him or her chocolates.

Today is a special day as well. Today is a day in which the other half of the population gets a day to celebrate and be recognized: Happy Single’s Awareness Day (SAD). Although some celebrate on Feb. 14, having SAD today allows the celebration to have its own day, uninterrupted by Valentine’s festivities.

At first many of you might cringe at the thought of celebrating this seemingly awful fact, but don’t be fooled — being single has its perks and is often well worth celebrating. Don’t believe me? Well, take a few moments to learn how to celebrate this controversial day with a fruit that is familiar with loneliness. Grapefruit, the national representative of the Lone Star State, reminds us there is still joy in celebrating singleness.

Even from the beginning of its existence, the grapefruit has made its way confidently in solitude and individualism — it is the only member of the citrus family to originate in the New World. Although this fruit gets its name from the clusters it grows in (much like those seen in grapes), it still ventures off the tree and is sold in stores as an individual fruit.

When purchasing a grapefruit from the market, be sure to pick one that is glossy, smooth, round and heavy for its size. With many other fruits you need to avoid uneven skin color or scratches, but with grapefruits, these are only aesthetically undesirable — they have no direct affect on flavor or texture quality. Grapefruits should be purchased as far into the ripening stages as possible — the riper the fruit the higher level of antioxidants present.

High levels of lycopene, a carotenoid phytonutrient antioxidant that gives the grapefruit flesh with vibrant pink and red hues, is linked to many health benefits. Some of which include: reducing cancer risks due to lycopene’s ability to destroy harmful free-radicals, lowering LDL (“bad”) cholesterol levels and limiting skin damage due to sun exposure — highly necessary when considering how Cal Poly is within 30 minutes of six different beaches.

As a single fruit, the grapefruit wears many colors to keep things new and exciting. Grapefruits come in white (blond), pink or even ruby. These color variations refer to the flesh of the fruit, and the skins of all varieties are a fairly similar yellow-pink color.

Shining brightly by its lonesome, the grapefruit offers well over 100 percent of your recommended vitamin C levels and a high amount of fiber with a very low calorie count.

This fruit is extremely powerful and potent on its own, and sometimes it doesn’t play well with others. It is important to keep in mind that the consumption of this little fireball along with pharmaceutical medicines often does not end well.

There is an enzyme found in the intestine that controls the natural breakdown and absorption of medications, and grapefruit juice is known to inhibit this enzyme and affect absorption. So always be careful with what you pair your grapefruit with; it is not a particular fan of blind dates with outdated cough drops.

Whether you are celebrating Single’s Awareness Day or not, know that the grapefruit sure is, and it is quite happy doing so — why not join the fun? Chocolates are a Valentine’s Day treat — today, sneak away and treat yourself to the sweet, tart, tantalizing taste that stands for singles.

Hint: George Washington was our first president, but did you know he was also a ______ farmer?

The grapefruit offers well over 100 percent of your recommended vitamin C levels and a high amount of fiber.

— Heather Rockwood

Food columnist
The Expendables return Saturday to rock SLO Brew

Amber Kiwan
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Santa Cruz-based "surf rock" band, The Expendables have played multiple times in San Luis Obispo, and the vibes of the Central Coast keep them coming back for more.

The Expendables will play at SLO Brewing Co. on Feb. 19 — a one-night stop on its way down the coast for their Winter Blackout Tour 2011.

Expendables bassist Ryan DeMars said certain aspects of San Luis Obispo, from the people to the weather, remind the band of their hometown in Santa Cruz, Calif.

"We've made it our second home," DeMars said. "That's why we like coming back."

During last year's Winter Blackout Tour, the group played three consecutive shows at SLO Brew, some of which were sold out.

This time around, the band embarked on their 2011 tour with new set lists to rock on stage.

DeMars said they're digging up older songs to play — songs they haven't played live in many years, while also playing newer songs that have not yet been released.

"We have a couple songs in our set that we had to bring out of The Expendables coffins, so to speak," DeMars said. "We're also working on a new song that we've been playing live that is getting a really good response."

DeMars said the band has high expectations for the crowd for the upcoming SLO Brew show.

"The crowds are a little better than expected going into this tour," he said. "Everyone is super rowdy and really stoked. And I would expect the same from SLO."

Animal science senior Kevin McEvilly said he saw The Expendables live a few years ago and thought the band's upbeat energy was terrific.

"They've got a sound that appeals to the college crowd," McEvilly said. "It's mellow, chillin' music."

Los Angeles-based surf rock band and main support act The B Foundation has a similar sound that draws in big crowds on the Central Coast as well.

"We've played SLO Brew a number of times — I love that club," B Foundation drummer Ian McGrath said. "I really look forward to the show. I think it's going to be big."

The B Foundation will also be headlining at SLO Brew in April. McGrath said touring California with The Expendables has been like a vacation.

"The weather has been nice," he said. "There are no snow storms, so we aren't worrying about dying everyday. We're playing with people we like to hang out with and the crowds are big. It's been really nice."

The seasoned rockers are touring with The Holdup, a newer addition to the reggae-rock scene that are going to turn some heads," DeMars said.

Tickets for the show can be purchased at Boo Boo Records or at tixerweb.com.
Education vital in passing on American dream

Marifel Perez-Stable is a Miami Herald columnist.

Is the United States in decline? Twenty-five years ago Americans feared Japan would make us No. 2, but then in the '90s our economy soared and Japan's stagnated. Now the fears have returned.

China, India, Brazil and other emerging economies are roaring ahead. China, our closest competitor, holds more than 20 percent of the $4.3 trillion in U.S. Treasury securities purchased by foreigners.

Deficit reduction, strategic investments (yes, spending), and comprehensive tax reform are not either/or propositions. All — and then some — are needed. Yet, when the White House's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform issued its sobering, sensible report, no one but a majority of its members embraced its recommendations.

Last December, the U.S. Census Bureau released the population count as of April 1, 2010. Since 1790, the decennial census has been the basis for the reapportionment of congressional seats and, thus, a linchpin of our democracy. States that gained seats, such as Texas and Florida, have largely grown thanks to Hispanics. Latinos also helped to stem losses in states like New York and New Jersey. That much we already know.

What's striking, though hardly surprising, is the most recent data: since 2000, racial minorities accounted for 85 percent of our population growth. Latinos alone constituted 40 percent of the increase among 18-and-older adults; altogether minorities represented 70 percent. That's the story regarding today's electorate.

But it's 5-year-olds that should give us all pause as we confront the nation's fiscal straits: For the first time, minorities constitute 50.1 percent of this cohort. Whites still hold a slight majority among 4-year-olds with higher shares in the older age groups. All the same, Census Bureau estimates point to a decline in white children nationally and in some 40 states. About 50 percent of the states will likely register gains in their child populations, most or all coming from minorities.

Declining fertility among whites and rising minority births explain these trends. Hispanic population growth is especially sensitive due to the rage over immigration. Yet, children born in the United States account for most of the Latino growth.

In 2004, the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform reported that the nation would have black and Hispanic children, the United States will decline. We are already living in the midst of a "cultural generation gap." William Frey at the Brookings Institution coined the phrase to depict the tensions created by large gaps between the white percentages among under-18 population and the 65-and-over group.

In Arizona, for example, whites comprise 43 percent of all children but a whopping 83 percent of all seniors, a 40-point breach that is the nation's highest. Nevada, California, Texas, New Mexico and Florida follow with gaps ranging from 34 to 29. Given demographic trends, large cultural generational gaps will spread to other states.

If we lower corporate tax rates, our exports would be more competitive and more American jobs would be created. Sensible spending cuts and targeted tax increases would reinvigorate our deficits and help us avert a crisis in the bond market. Even under this rosy scenario, however, only if we build upon our singular strength — our human capital, the creativity, entrepreneurship and generosity of our people — would we pass the venerable American dream to the next generations.

If we meet these challenges, we will have cast an even wider net around the American people's energies and at how well their experiment had held up in spite of it all.

Unles we do better — substantially better — at educating our children, the United States will decline.

— Marifel Perez-Stable

Miami Herald columnist

By Pedro Molina

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Wrestling
continued from page 12

18 Cole Dallasaerra in a Pac-10 semi­
final.

"I definitely want to wrestle people like (Chamberlain and Dal­

lasaerra) to see what I can do at 149 pounds," Filip Novachkov said.

"I want it more now than I did at 133 pounds to be honest. I just

want to wrestle. I just want to show what I'm capable of."

While Filip looks to secure a spot in Philadelphia, his brother,

141-pound junior Boris Novach­
kov, has back-to-back Pac-10 Cham­
pionships in his sights, to catapult

himself into an NCAA tournament

appearance and more.

Boris has earned national rank­
ings as high as No. 3, resulting from

his 24-1 record with four pins. The

only blemish on his record comes

from a one-point defeat at the hands

of No. 1 Kellen Russell of Michigan.

He has also defeated six ranked

wrestlers this season including a

3-1 decision over Oklahoma's Zach

Bailey, who was No. 1 when the

match

setting could help Cal Poly pull a

major upset.

"It's pretty clear why Morales'

return is so important to the Angels,

who scored 202 fewer runs in 2010

than in 2009 and are coming off an

80-82 season.

"The long-range prognosis is very
good," Scioscia said of Morales, who

was examined last week by Dr. Phil

Kwong, the team's foot and ankle

specialist. "They did an X-ray, and

the alignment in the joint looks good.

"Short range, we're going to ease

him into what he needs to do. He's

not a guy who would need 80 at­
bats and 25 games this spring to get

ready."

Mike Scioscia will be hoping to get a potent Kendy Morales back in the

lineup. He hit .290 with 11 home runs and 39 RBIs before getting injured.

Angels
continued from page 12

There would be a huge drop-off

between Morales and any of those

options, which Scioscia listed as

second baseman Howie Kendrick,

who has some experience at first;

Brandon Wood, who hit .146 last

season; prospect Mark Trumbo,

who has 15 big league at-bats, and

even 5-foot-8 utility infielder Al­

beros Callaspe.

It's pretty clear why Morales'
Wrestling eyes Pac-10 Championships

With the Mustangs finishing their regular season Sunday, they now head to the Pac-10 Championships in Corvallis, Ore.

J.J. Jenkins
jjenkins.mst@gmail.com

Wrestling co-head coach Mark Perry came to Cal Poly to help bring home championships, and in two weeks, the Mustangs will have their first opportunity in the Perry-era to do just that. Ten Mustangs will make their way to Corvallis, Ore., with the Pac-10 Championships on their minds.

"Our focus is just winning the title," 197-pounder Ryan Smith said. "The truth is Oregon State could take that away from us ... It doesn't matter. It's about coming together as a team and winning for each other."

For the majority of them, pulling an upset or two will be the only way to secure a place in the NCAA tournament in Philadelphia next month.

Last year's Pac-10 Championships still haunt Smith, who has a vendetta on his mind this year.

In 2010, Smith fought his way to the finals, but lost 11-5 to Riley Orozco and was forced into a "true second" match where Smith had to wrestle No. 3 finisher Matt Casperson. In that match, he saw a 5-0 lead vanish in moments, as Casperson took advantage of a mistake and put Smith on his back for a pin.

"It was kind of like my world fell down around me and everything that I had been training for was all taken away from me in a matter of seconds," Smith said. "It was heartbreaking, but at the same time, it was motivation. I never want to feel that way again, and I'm not going to let that happen again this year."

The loss almost certainly cost Smith an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

This year, Casperson and Stanford's Zack Giesen are again the two biggest obstacles in Smith's way to a title.

"I hope I get Casperson and avenge that loss," Smith said. "(I want) it to be a full circle of the Pac-10 for me, beat the two guys that beat me and end up the champion."

Senior Filip Novachkov may be in the most precarious situation after a late-season jump to 149-pounds left him lacking the requirements for an automatic bid. Although, gaining 25 pounds in a matter of weeks, coupled with an undefeated record at his new weight, has given him hopes of making a third trip to nationals.

To give himself a shot, Novachkov, in all likelihood, will have to upset either No. 2 Jason Chamberlain, a high school foe, or No. 10 Giesen and avenge that loss. Smith said, "(I want) it to be a full circle of the Pac-10 for me, beat the two guys that beat me and end up the champion."