The addition of the five-story Robert E. Kennedy Library to Cal Poly's campus marks the 30th anniversary of the library's success. He lobbied to gain the $11 million it took for the library to officially open in 1980. A year later, the building was dedicated to Kennedy, who died in December 2010.

Thirty years ago, a student looking for books that ran floor-to-ceiling and drink on every floor. More recently, the library has added wireless printing, new laptops available to check out, more access to electronically accessed articles, and students can be seen enjoying food and drinks on every floor.

With its 2,000 seats, 280 computers in seven labs and dozens of group study areas on every floor, today's library is what former President Emeritus Kennedy realized was essential for student success. He lobbied to gain the $11 million it took for the library to officially open in 1980. A year later, the building was dedicated to Kennedy, who died in December 2010.

Since its opening, the library has changed in a variety of ways to keep up with and meet student demands. Five years ago, students were not allowed to have food or drinks in the library. Now the second floor has Julie's Panisserie as well as a microwave, and students can be seen enjoying food and drinks on every floor.

With students approaching graduation still unsure about the right job for them, Cal Poly alumna Shanta Palmer is offering a career counseling workshop April 9 to help.

With the workshop, called a Career Selection and Self-Discovery course, aims to help students not only consider the job that would be the most fulfilling, but also offers the most opportunities for where they hope to live.

Palmer, who received a master's in industrial technology in 2008, said when she got into her current career in aerospace engineering, she did not consider how many jobs would be available to her if she wanted to stay in the San Luis Obispo area.

"I spent six years getting a degree that's not really necessarily in a field I want to be in," Palmer said. "You spend thousands of dollars, years, working on your grades to get through school and then when you get out, life hits you with all the reality: if you want to stay in this area, you should have got a degree to stay in this area."

In addition, Palmer said in her experience at Cal Poly, though she was offered instructive workshops on resumes and interviews, she did not feel she received a specified direction to her field that would allow her to flourish in the area she wanted to live in. Palmer said she hopes the workshop will help students decide what they really want to do.

Sherrie Amido, a Cal Poly English alumna and education management lecture, will participate in resume workshops April 9 for English majors. She said when considering a job, it is important to be specific and knowledgeable about the job and prospective employer.

"So many students, young students for sure, go to the job fair and they start charting with different companies," Amido said. "And they might be very excited to get an interview and an offer, but it might not be the right fit because they didn't really do the research, and you're going to waste summer because you made a hasty decision finding out it's that company for you or if they're giving you the skills that you want, so it's worth the time."

Amido also said employers are more impressed by job seekers who are knowledgeable about their company, as well as offer a "functional resume" that highlights the most important and pertinent experience of the job seeker for that employer. She said students should get a good list of "resume verbs" to show their full employable potential.
Library
continued from page 1
The varying environments each floor provides are something civil engineering senior Chris Sy said makes the library cater to any study method.
"During finals week, the fourth and fifth floors definitely (are the most helpful)," Sy said. "Not during finals week, the third floor (is helpful) just because you can actually converse and use those huge tables in the big open areas to do homework."
To meet the needs of all students, no matter their study preferences, library services use a series of formal surveys, ad hoc surveys, student projects and feedback boxes to connect with students and hear concerns.
"What we don't want is for the library to be for some; we want it to be for all and meet the full range of needs for people," Gold said. "There is stuff happening here, and it's exciting. You feel like you're part of something, and happening here, and it's exciting. You feel like you're part of something, and happenings in a down budget time period, when there has been less progress than people would have liked as far as benefits to students, that we've been able to make changes in the library that have been beneficial. We've been able to show positive change, and we're excited about that."
President Jeffrey Armstrong and Dean of Library Services Michael Miller will deliver speeches about both the library and former President Emeritus Kennedy and his role in its creation. Following this, room 114 will be dedicated to former Cal Poly administrator Dale Andrews, who retired in 1983 after serving as the executive vice president.
Special tours of the first two library floors will also be given in addition to a reception that will be held by students, that we've been able to make changes in the library that have been beneficial. We've been able to show positive change, and we're excited about that.
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SACRAMENTO (MCT) — California politicians who want to carry weapons will still have to go through the same permit process as everyone else, at least for now. A bill that would have streamlined the state's gun permit process for them was stripped of that controversial provision Tuesday, before a legislative committee passed the rest of the measure. Democratic state Sen. Roderick Wright, author of the bill, said he hoped to revisit the idea later.

State residents who apply for a permit to carry a concealed weapon must show good cause for one. That can include dangerous work or threats of violence. Wright's measure would have established that good cause existed in elected officials' need for "for protection or self-defense."

ORANGE COUNTY (MCT) — Orange County, Calif., supervisors have approved a law significantly restricting the movements of registered sex offenders, banning them from entering some beaches, parks and schools.

The law, approved unanimously by the board Tuesday, is the latest in a controversial series of ordinances across the country that are aimed at limiting where sex offenders can live and visit.

Orange County's ordinance appears to be the first legal move in California imposing across-the-board restrictions on where sex offenders can be. Los Angeles County in 2009 passed legislation banning registered sex offenders from "entering" within 300 feet of "child safety zones," which include schools, public libraries and parks.

COLOMBIA (MCT) — In an updated seasonal outlook released Wednesday Colorado State University storm prognosticators Phil Klotzbach and William Gray call for 10 named storms, including nine hurricanes.

They predict five of those hurricanes will be major systems, with winds greater than 110 mph.

That is slightly lower than their initial forecast for the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season, which starts on June 1. In December, the two climatologists predicted 17 named storms, including nine hurricanes, five intense.

If their forecast holds, it would translate to a busy season; in an average season, 11 named storms, including six hurricanes, two intense, develop.

As part of their forecast, Klotzbach and Gray call for a 72 percent chance that at least one major hurricane will strike the United States. The average is a 52 percent chance.

They call for a 48 percent chance that a major hurricane will strike the U.S. East Coast, including the Florida Peninsula. The average is a 31 percent chance.

WASHINGTON D.C. (MCT) — President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign is under way and, as what may be the result of the influence of social media on his presidency, he's hosting a town hall-style meeting on April 20 at Facebook headquarters to talk about the economy.

Obama won the 2008 presidential election with support from voters who averaged social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter.

The "Facebook Live" town hall, as it's being called on the Facebook page detailing the event, will include Obama speaking with Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, the company's chief operating officer.

The event will be live streamed publicly from Facebook's Palo Alto, Calif., headquarters, which allows for those without a Facebook account to watch.

italy (MCT) — The trial of Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on charges of sexual misconduct and abuse of power opened Wednesday in Milan and was almost immediately adjourned until May 31. It was one of the most anticipated courtroom events in Italy's history, with evidence including testimony on orgies where parties at Berlusconi's villa and phone-trap transcripts featuring girls said to be paid handsomely to entertain male guests.

The 74-year-old premier is accused of paying for sex with Karima El Mahroug last year, when she was 17 — a year under the age for legal prostitution in Italy — when he invited her to parties in his villa at Arcore, outside Milan, described in the press as feasts that included strip teases and sex.

The premier has always protested his innocence, denying having sex with her and saying she lied about her age.

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Many government services to discontinue if shutdown becomes reality this week

Steven Thomma
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Social Security checks would still go out. So would tax payments and refunds for e-filed tax returns. Servicemen would remain on duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, and sailors off the coast of Libya. FBI agents would still work. Mail would still be delivered.

Those are some of the services that would continue even if the federal government runs out of money at 12:01 a.m. EDT Saturday with no agreement between Republicans and Democrats in Congress and the White House to extend the budget.

But much of the government would shut down.

Roughly 800,000 federal employees would be furloughed, including many civilian workers in the Defense Department, much of the White House staff, and at least some staff in Congress.

National parks would close. Hand-mailed tax returns would go unopened.

With no agreement to finance the government past Friday night, government agencies prepared contingency plans Wednesday for what would stay open and what would close. Each of the three branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — made their own plans.

The key criteria for keeping government employees working is whether their office is critical to protecting life or property, or has another source of money, such as user fees.

Whether they work or not, all federal employees would go unpaid during the shutdown. Those who work would be paid retroactively, according to the Office of Personnel Management.

Those ordered to stay home would be paid for that time only if both Congress and the president agreed to it.

Here's a list of how a shutdown would impact some parts of the federal government:

—Military. Troops would remain on duty, receiving IOUs rather than paychecks. "They will continue to earn money during this period," said a senior Obama administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity as a matter of White House policy.

"But given that we don't have any money during this period of time, they will not receive paychecks." They would be paid retroactively once Congress and the president sign a budget deal.

Civilians at the Department of Defense. Those whose work helps protect life or property would keep working. Others would be sent home, apparently without pay.

"We expect a significant number of DoD civilian employees would be furloughed," the administration official said.

—Internal Revenue Service. Income tax returns filed electronically would be processed. Payments would be collected. "We need to be able to collect the money that is owed to the U.S. government," the senior administration official said. Refunds for e-filed returns also would be sent automatically. But paper-filed returns would not be processed, and refunds would be held until furloughed employees could return to work. Audits would be postponed.

Mail. The U.S. Postal Service would still deliver the mail, thanks to income from stamps. "We're self-funded," said Postal Service spokesman Gerry McKiernan. "It's a normal day for us."

—Social Security. Checks would still be sent out to current beneficiaries, either through the mail or electronically.

The Obama administration said final plans were still being prepared, and would not say whether the Social Security Administration would be able to handle claims for new beneficiaries.

—Medicare. Would still make payments to its beneficiaries "at least for a short period of time," according to the senior administration official.

—FBI and other federal law enforcement. Would keep working.

—Parks. National Parks would close. The Smithsonian Institution's museums and the National Zoo would be closed.

Saturday's Cherry Blossom Parade to be held in Washington, D.C., would be canceled.

Air traffic control. The Federal Aviation Administration refused to say whether it would shut down air traffic, referring questions to the Office of Management and Budget. That office didn't respond to questions.

—Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA would stop doing environmental impact statements and issuing permits, causing some energy and transportation projects to stop.

The administration wouldn't say whether the EPA would continue testing to see if radiation from Japan reaches the U.S.

—Small Business Administration. The SBA would stop approving applications for loans from small businesses.

—Federal Housing Administration. The FHA would stop guaranteeing mortgage loans, which could have a significant impact heading into the spring home buying season, the year's busiest.

Administration officials noted that the FHA now guarantees 30 percent of home mortgages, up from 12 percent at the time of the last government shutdown.

—National Institutes of Health. Would continue to treat patients rather than paychecks. "They will continue to earn money during this period," said a senior Obama administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity as a matter of White House policy.

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The English department will also have additional career workshops for English majors from 12:30 to 3:45 p.m. in the Cottrell Education building, rooms 203 and 204 on April 9. These include "Interview 101" led by Roger Reedy, the director of business development for BBSI, a nationwide business service, and a 1986 Cal Poly English alumnus.

Reedy said when he was asked to participate in the workshops, which started in January 2010 with a small group of English majors he "jumped right on" the opportunity.

"Back when I was in school as an English major, we didn't have any kind of mentoring program," Reedy said. "I hadn't met any alumni until I had graduated myself, and I always thought that was the only criticism I would have had of the school back then."

For Palmer, Cal Poly was lacking in a guidance or mentoring program when she was in school, which propelled her to start the career counseling workshop. Another round of the workshop is scheduled for April 30, and will follow the same format as the first. Palmer said the first round is for the selection process of the right job, while the second is concerned with how to get there.

"When you go to career counseling at Poly, they're very helpful looking over résumés, but there's not really anybody there that I found would sit down and say, 'Where do you want to live? Where's your skill-set? And what kind of job are you shooting for here?' because that's a big deal," Palmer said. "And just to sit down and think about that earlier in the degree process, I think, would make a huge difference in later career satisfaction."

Amido agrees with Palmer, but said it is also important for students to contact alumni who are in the field they are interested in to get more of a feel for what the job would be like.

"The best researching is not just online: maybe contacting somebody in the industry currently working and asking them for an informative interview," Amido said. "You cannot believe the wonderful information you can get. Plus, then you get a networking contact."

Reedy also said it is important to network with alumni, as well as make academic and business connections, especially when still in school. In fact, Reedy said it is never too early to start networking, as well as establish a LinkedIn account, which is the "Facebook for the business world."

"Start with your professors, get to know your professors — you're going to want recommendations from professors especially in the department you're majoring in," Reedy said. "You want to network as far and wide as you can while you're still a student. I mean, it's the easiest time right now to build your network."

Reedy said he felt alumni like himself and even Palmer should help current students find direction for their lives after college.

"I love Cal Poly and I love what the students are doing," Reedy said. "And if we can give back a little bit and help give you guys a little bit of direction, I think it's something we should have been doing a long time ago just like something we're doing now."

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Paso Robles' Centennial Park. Tickets are $20.

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Viva la música
Cal Poly jazz bands plan trip to Puerto Rico

Cal Poly's 36-member jazz bands have started to raise an estimated $70,000 for a June trip to Puerto Rico.

The travel program aims to expose students to foreign cultures and music, said Terrence Spiller, professor and chair of the music department.

The department picked Puerto Rico because of its musical importance, Spiller said.

"Latin American music plays a huge role in jazz," Spiller said. "Puerto Rico is interesting and it's different than any trip before."

Puerto Rico offers jazz students Cal Poly's "Learn By Doing" experience in a global world. Jazz members get to learn firsthand the subtleties and intricacies of Latin American Jazz through educational clinics, Spiller said.

Not only do they get to experience how other cultures respond to music, but they are also exposed to diversity.

"Cal Poly does have issues with being diverse, and if you can take our Cal Poly kids and throw them somewhere like China, Brazil or Puerto Rico, the impact it makes on world views is extraordinary," Spiller said.

The Cal Poly music department makes sure that every ensemble has a chance to travel to somewhere fascinating at least once during their studies at Cal Poly, Spiller said.

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Little Theater hosts little play with big intentions

Karen Prazak
karenprazakmo@gmail.com

The San Luis Obispo Little Theater will host a play this month that proves size and grandeur aren't everything in show business. The Pulitzer Prize-winning, two-man play "The Gin Game" will give audiences a glimpse into the harsh realities and experiences that come with aging.

"This play is about old people who were once young, and young people who grew old, and middle-aged people who hide uncertainly "somewhere in between," director John Pail said. "It can suit us all because we are all going to get there — we hope."

"The Gin Game" gained popularity after it debuted on Broadway in 1977. It is comprised of two acts which follow the story of an elderly pair, Foncie Dorsey and Weller Martin, who meet in a nursing home and play a series of gin games throughout the production.

As the plot unfolds, the characters reveal their pasts, including regrets, stories, and experiences that come with aging. The relationship develops further as the pair deals with the trials and tribulations of aging and soon come to realize the relationship developed too late in their lives, Pillow said.

For leading woman Rae Stone, who plays Foncia and has acted for 52 years, the sensitive topics are what intrigued her to join the production.

"The issue of aging, dementia, the gradual loss of control and ... the loss of family as you age is an issue that is not often addressed."

Rae Stone
Actor

The relationship develops as the pair shifts from play to play, changing the production as real as possible because this is a straight play, or one that is comprised mainly of spoken drama.

"When you have two actors that are able to communicate and create real people in front of you (such as Stone and Ammon), you stand there and you're not looking at actors — you are watching two people in a relationship going through the highs and lows of the system," Pillow said.

The ability to induce emotions and create a catharsis, as Pillow called it, is his proudest achievement thus far, and a reason in itself to go see "The Gin Game," he said.

The play will run from April 8 to May 1 at the San Luis Obispo Little Theater located at 888 Morro St. Tickets are $15 to $22 and available online or by calling 786-2440.

The important thing is to understand what you're really after; you needn't reach the goal, but you must know what it is.

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Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You'll come to a clear understanding of what is required of you — in both a personal and a professional sense.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Remember to include others in your thought process; working together with others requires common vigilance.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — After a few minor corrections, you'll be able to anticipate the adjustments that the powers-that-be will be asking for.

Weller is played by Tom Ammon. With 32 years of acting experience, Ammon said he has wanted to play a role like this one for a while.

"As you go through your acting career, there are certain parts and ages you can play," he said. "This was a part I've wanted to play for a while now, and I'm at the age where I can do it."

More importantly, Ammon said "The Gin Game" exposes the audience to a side of life they may not be used to seeing, but it gives light to certain aspects that are good to face.

"It wouldn't be believable if the acting wasn't there, and in this case, Pillow said he found the perfect pair to help him strip the production of theatricality, He and his two solo actors are able to focus more on making the production as real as possible because this is a straight play, or one that is comprised mainly of spoken drama.

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"Weller is kind of in denial about getting old," Pillow said. "The gin game is his last grasp at something that keeps him active. He doesn't
Jazz

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Last year, the orchestra traveled to the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and the wind orchestra played at Disney Hall in Los Angeles. In 2006, the wind orchestra went to Europe. The director of the jazz bands, Paul Rinzler, said he has been on past trips and has seen the importance they have. He said he makes sure the music department continues taking these trips.

Five years ago, the jazz band went on a trip to Brazil. One night in Brazil, the jazz band played at a club where a thousand or more people attended, Rinzler said.

Trumpet soloist and civil engineering senior Bret Bailey went on the trip to Brazil and was part of the group that played at the club.

At one point during the performance, a group of Brazilian girls standing on the dance floor in front of the stage motioned the band to come down. The band then came down off the stage and played on the floor, both playing and dancing with the audience, Bailey said.

"It wasn't something the Brazilians had to directly tell us, it was just something we could feel," Bailey said. "That was, they appreciated what we had to offer. In return, we wanted to please them."

Jazz is not like other music in which musicians just read the notes and play the keys — jazz is meant to be spontaneous and unpredictable. That's exactly what the jazz bands grasped, and how they performed in Brazil, Rinzler said.

"The jazz bands became rock stars," Rinzler said.

Hundreds of people rushed to watch them perform, then danced to the jazz until they couldn't dance anymore, Bailey said.

The trip was an eye-opening experience that brought the bands together and allowed them to bond like never before, Bailey said.

"We drove by areas in Brazil that were true shambles," he said. "Numerous amounts of people were living together in single huts. It really hit home to us all of how fortunate we truly are."

Bailey said he is looking forward to the trip to Puerto Rico and hopes to have a similar experience as in Brazil.

The trip was worth every penny, and the music department does a great job of making sure that everyone can go," Bailey said.

For the Puerto Rico trip, the department will raise money through fundraisers.

"Our biggest fundraiser is playing gigs, which is what the band should do because it instills a sense of professionalism in the band," Rinzler said.

The estimated cost of the trip is around $1,900 per student. The department uses fundraisers and donations to cut costs for the students.

Those who can't afford the trip, even after help from fundraisers and donations, are still able to go on the trip. The department provides money for them from its own fund, even at a time of continuous budget cuts.

Money is tight and university spending is limited, but there is a need for student travel, Spiller said.
Majorcentrism’ making students feel special

Aside from neon tank tops, Apple products and construction paraphernalia, something else has taken up a seemingly boundless presence on campus. It is invisible yet nuanced in its intellectually stimulating nature due to wild amounts of communication studies, liberal studies or music major.

I have heard engineering students cite the innumerable number of calculus problems they have been burdened with, while architecture majors rebelled with a testament to their nocturnal — or, rather, sleepless — nature due to wild amounts of hours spent in-studio. At this point, I might interject with the perils of writer anxiety — if anybody is still willing to listen.

We all have our own. Students have, more or less, been divided based on their natural affinities, and the respective tasks carry equal weight. The amount of time a student spends on school work might not even be an accurate representation of his or her effort spent.

In fact, in the Mustang Daily newsroom, where deadlines rule the world, working within a small time frame can be as stressful as staying up all night to finish a project or memorize the parts of a plant.

Cal Poly is a tech-oriented school, and those majoring in engineering seem to think this allows them an extra few degrees of prestige. Members of the College of Math and Science will be the first to admit it’s not easy to live up to the level of precision expected by their profession. But abstract and artistic thinking calls for its own kind of critical brainpower. People in more creative majors have to pull material from — essentially — thin air.

Forgive me for generalizing. I know not all math majors are uncreative, illiterate nerds. However, I don’t think they deserve any more credit than a communication studies, liberal studies or music major.

Granted, math and science courses often deal in absolutes. No one is going to contemplate the holistic value of a math problem if the solution is incorrect. You’re either right or wrong, most of the time, whereas I have gotten credit for more than one non-conclusive paper by buying a half-baked thesis under pages of semantics.

One humbling experience for me occurred during a botany lab. I had freshman year, in which we had to plant potatoes and other fast-growing plants. My plants were the only ones in the whole class that refused to grow at all. Aggies — I give credit where credit is due.

And so should you.

Techniques for success among majors are not congruent, and there are certain strategies applicable to each course.

Now, majorcentrism has evolved into a widespread attitude that some students have it better than others. On the contrary, students will become as involved as they want to be. The difference between a passing grade and a memorable portfolio piece is motivation. As students are perpetually compared to one another within areas of study, and areas of study continue to hold each other in high regard or low disdain, there are bound to be victims of this race for importance.

There is no accurate way to measure the importance of a societal role. With hope, we will all be working together one day — however specialized — as engines of the same machine.

David Liebig is a journalism junior.
Triathlon

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championships. We swam in a slow moving river which is really murky. People were worried about alligators but I never saw any. The biking is two laps so it's really spectator friendly, with rolling hills. It's a beautiful course — the run is on a bike path right along the river. It's probably unrepresentative of Alabama as a whole, but it's actually pretty nice."

This contrasts to last year when there were 50 mph crop winds, pouring rain and a flooded course where people had to get off their bikes to cross in some areas. Moreover, on the swim leg of the race, people got sick from a bacterial outbreak.

Communications, manager John Martin has been working with the USA Triathlon for two years, the National Events teams have been working hard to put things in place and are looking forward to having approximately 1,600 athletes from around 120 schools, Martin said.

"The course is looking great," Martin said. "It's an area that our staff is really familiar with. We get great support from the community there, from the mayor's office, from the university. It's a fantastic course that all the athletes should really enjoy."

What makes this event unique is the team atmosphere. There is the assumption that triathlon is an individual sport but at this event there is an obvious display of team and school spirit that can't be found at any other races, Martin said.

"The Cal Poly Triathlon team does not act like an individual sport. They practice together two to three times a day, hang out together and some of the members even live together.

"I've always thought the triathlon team is pretty special because you have the runner geeks, the cool water polo swimmer kids, the cycling dorks and a huge range of people who you would never expect to be friends in any other setting." Tillman said. "Everyone is just a really welcoming group of people. It's a pretty cohesive team mentality."

For Wiggins, the triathlon team has turned into his family over the past two years.

"I love hanging out around these people because no matter what, you can count on them to get stuff done," Wiggins said. "Ultimate 2's how we go about training. You don't get up at 5 a.m. everyday unless you have that ambition. That's the ideal attitude; live and breathe triathlon. It becomes a lifestyle. You forget what it's like to not have it."

Lee said Miller is set to start again this weekend versus UC Santa Barbara, though first baseman Tim Wise and second baseman Matt Jenson might not see the field for a couple more weeks.

After enjoying 15 of the team's last 16 games at home, the series against UC Santa Barbara will be the first on the road for Cal Poly, since Feb. 26 at Oklahoma State.

The first game of the series will begin Friday at Caesar Uyesaka Stadium at 3 p.m.

Baseball

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and a 10th inning walk-off victory in game three.

"I think that it's important to start off conference with a series win and the way we won it," Lee said. "It will help us continue in our confidence and help us know we can come back and win a close baseball game."

Cal Poly's injury woes have begun to alleviate, with Miller returning to the lineup against UC Riverside. Miller led the team with a .458 batting average and went 2-11, with 3 RBIs in his first three games.

"Defensively, I'm fine," Miller said. "Hitting-wise, there's still a little pain in the wrist. Mechanically it's just a little off because it's weak, so I'm not able to drive some balls like I'd want to."

The Cal Poly baseball team will try to rebound from a 4-0 loss to San Francisco on Tuesday when they face the Gauchos.

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WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Baseball travels to Santa Barbara for weekend series

Jerome Goyhenetche

The Mustangs head south to face their rivals in Santa Barbara Friday, but shortstop Mike Miller, who leads the team with a .383 batting average, isn’t going to let the aura of a rivalry stop him from seeing the big picture.

“Every game is important from here on out,” Miller said. “Every series determines what we do in the postseason. We have to keep ourselves in the mix and can’t bury ourselves early. Every week is going to be more important than the last.”

The last time the Blue-Green Rivalry took the field, UC Santa Barbara walked away with a 2-1 series victory. The Mustangs opened the series with a 10-inning, 4-3 victory, but the Gauchos responded with their own late-game comeback, overcoming a 9-7 deficit to win 10-9 in the 9th inning of game two. The Gauchos took the series in game three with a convincing 10-3 win.

By the end of the conference schedule, both teams finished tied for fifth in the Big West, with a 10-4 conference record.

This season, UC Santa Barbara was picked to finish sixth in a Big West preseason coaches poll, while Cal Poly was picked to finish fourth. Head coach Larry Lee said both teams will match up tied for fifth in the Big West, with a 10-4 conference record.

“The big picture,” Miller said. “Every game is important from here on out. Every week is important from here on out. Our last big series was against Cal Poly. We know that next season we’re going to have to rely on pitching to keep having success. That’s why the past game is not going to give us an advantage or disadvantage.”

Cal Poly’s main rival — California, Wiggin said. “The last time the Blue-Green Rivalry took the field, Cal Poly won the contest, 15-7. This weekend, we’re going to win in a low scoring, close ball game.”

Half of Cal Poly’s 24 games this season have been decided by two runs or less. The Mustangs have gone 4-8 in those games, while batting just 3-for-24 with the bases loaded.

But with a fresh start in Big West play, the Mustangs have been able to capitalize on last-game opportunities. Cal Poly won its Big West opener versus UC Riverside, taking the first game with three runs scored in the seventh.

Club triathlon team going to Nationals

Catherine Borgeson

The Cal Poly club triathlon team is heading to the 2011 USA Triathlon Collegiate Nationals in Tuscaloosa, Ala. this weekend.

The top seven men and seven women will represent Cal Poly in the Olympic-distance race, which consists of a 1,500 meter swim, a 40 kilometer bike and a 10 kilometer run.

There are an additional 15 Cal Poly triathletes, who will race the sprint-distance race consisting of a 750 meter swim, a 20 kilometer bike and a 5 kilometer run.

The top seven men and seven women will represent Cal Poly in the Olympic-distance race, which consists of a 1,500 meter swim, a 40 kilometer bike and a 10 kilometer run. This race is intended for those who did not qualify for the Olympic race but would like to have the experience of traveling with the team and competing.

Race coordinator and mechanical engineering sophomore Frankie Wiggins will race the sprint-distance race because he plans to race the Olympic-distance race in the future.

“It takes a lot of dedication because, honestly, our top No. 1 and No. 2 guys are triathletes first,” Wiggins said. “You can train and train and train but that’s not the half of it because the more you train, the more you eat, the more you sleep, the more you stretch yourself. It just builds on you. There’s a dedication aspect to it.”

Cal Poly is known at Nationals. Last year, the team placed fourth overall at the 2010 Collegiate Nationals in Lubbock, Texas. The top teams are the military service academies, Colorado University and Cal Poly’s main rival — California. Wiggins said.

Cal did not compete last year because of a suspension but it will in Alabama.

Softball hosts Santa Barbara this weekend

RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

What a difference a weekend can make. After going 4-22 through its non-conference schedule, the Mustangs seemed to have turned things around by winning two of three games against UC Riverside last weekend. The Mustangs hope to carry that momentum into this weekend, when they host UC Santa Barbara (15-18, 1-3 Big West) this weekend at Bob Jannous Field.

“Those wins make a difference in momentum,” Radeke said. “We have momentum built up with two good wins over UCIR and it’s going to carry over to UCSB. We’re going to have to pitch well and continue to scrap some runs in.”

Radeke last faced UC Santa Barbara in 2009 and it was also the last time the Mustangs defeated the Gauchos. He gave up five earned runs in six innings, walking five and striking out two, but behind a powerful Cal Poly offense, earned a 15-7 win in 2009.

With a lineup that’s seventh in the Big Westconference and a .257 batting average, Lee said the team is going to have to rely on pitching to keep having success.

“We’ve struggled for the most part putting together a solid offense,” Lee said. “At this time we’re not the type of team to put a number of runs on the board. If we win, we’re going to win in a low scoring, close ball game.”

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