

Open House welcomes students, alumni, friends

Cal Poly's fourth annual Open House, "Beyond Your Wildest Dreams," brought more than 35,000 students, community members, and alumni on campus last spring. Activities included a Friday night rodeo, a carnival, live entertainment from a mariachi band and theater performers,

a Chinese lion dance, educational games, and interactive displays from more than 200 campus clubs and organizations. Orientation was provided for new students, and recruitment information for those who were still undecided. **CP**



A Cal Poly cowboy swings his lasso high as he prepares to rope a steer during the Cal Poly rodeo, one of the highlights of Open House. (Photo by Dawn Kalmar, *Mustang Daily*)



Xela Smith, 9, gets clay-ful with third-year architecture student Binh Dang at the ASI Craft Center's booth. The center offers classes in ceramics, woodworking, stained glass, bike repair, and other hands-on activities. (Photo by Maria Varni, *Mustang Daily*)

Wastewater treatment system generates energy

When 300 cows yield 36,000 pounds of waste per day, the phrase "waste disposal" takes on a whole new meaning. Dairy farms produce an "amazing" amount of manure, says BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Professor Doug Williams. And although some of that manure can be disposed of properly on land as fertilizer, most collects and creates problems, such as waste products getting into ground water.

Even a small dairy like Cal Poly's can find itself with a waste problem, Williams says. He is helping the university be "a good neighbor" by setting up a wastewater treatment system that will not only keep

overflow out of nearby creeks and reduce odor but will also generate energy for the dairy.

The system, called an anaerobic lagoon digester, collects methane gas from the manure and uses it to power the dairy equipment. The manure and wastewater are then treated, and the harmless overflow moves into a storage lagoon to be used for irrigation and fertilizer.

Williams works on the project along with students who take their knowledge into "the real world," implementing new systems on existing dairy farms. **CP**