Students hoping to get out of college in four years may be in for a big surprise.

According to a recent study conducted by Cal Poly's Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis, it takes the average Cal Poly student six years to graduate. Donnie Knipp, institutional Research and Planning analyst for Cal Poly, said these numbers are fairly comparable to the national average.

"People want to get out of college in four years, but at Cal Poly that doesn't usually happen," she said.

Cal Poly students shouldn't start panicking just yet. Using the six-year graduation rate used by the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Cal Poly ranks first out of all California State Universities in graduating first-time freshmen within six years. Data collected in 1997 for students who enrolled in 1991 shows Cal Poly gives degrees to 58.9 percent of its students in six years or less. The CSU system hands only 40.4 of its students diplomas within the same period of time.

Cal Poly's graduation rate doesn't rank as high when compared to schools within the University of California system. Statistics given in U.S. News and World Report 1999 College Rankings show that 89 percent of UC Berkeley students and 79 percent of UCLA students finish college within six years. There are many reasons it might take a student more than four years to graduate. Many students blame difficulty of changing majors as one reason. Data shows that upper-division students change majors less often than first-time freshmen. For freshmen who enrolled in 1992, almost 41 percent were enrolled in or graduated within the same major in which they enrolled, while just over 26 percent were enrolled in or graduated from a different major. In the same year, 82 percent of upper-division students were enrolled in or graduated from the same major in which they enrolled, and about 12 percent switched majors.
By Bryce Alderton
Mustang Daily

A Cal Poly student is putting her education to work very soon, and the State of California should be excited about it.

Agricultural science senior Tiffany Rausser will be graduating in June and then go on to work as the administrative assistant to California’s Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Lyons Jr.

She works at the Rock Center in the Esrahrt Agriculture building on campus. Rausser won the 1998 Agricultural Communicator’s Award from the Rock Center recognizing work in agricultural communications, and service and work in the Rock Center.

Scott Vernon, co-director of the Rock Center, is impressed with Rausser’s work ethic.

“Rausser has the talent and skills to accomplish a job in state government. She has put together a set of skills, which she thinks meet the needs of California’s government and economy,” Vernon said.

Rausser has developed three types of skills: technical, human relations, and conceptual.

Technical skills involve writing and communicating effectively and being able to use computers and software programs for California’s agricultural industry, worth more than $26 billion.

Conceptual skills involve developing ideas and passing those on to Secretary Lyons.

Vernon believes the most important skill is human relations, which involves interacting in a diverse environment and acting in a professional manner. He thinks Rausser is fit for the position.

“She is beyond her years. She has worked hard in developing those skills that a governor would want,” Vernon said. “She is an articulate young lady who is enjoyable to be around. She is down to earth and has the heart of a servant.”

In addition to her work at the Rock Center, Rausser was the Associated Students Inc. public relations director and is a member of Alpha Phi sorority.
NURSE
continued from page 1
from Cal Poly.

She then received a master's degree in education. She also earned a mas- ter's degree in public administration from the University of San Francisco, which used to offer classes at Cal Poly through a special program.

Cirone went to the University of California, Los Angeles every week- end for a year for her nurse-practitioner training.

She started working at the Health Center when she was 39-years-old.

Changing majors doesn't necessarily mean students transfer to a different school.

Cal Poly's student retention rate is higher than other CSU schools. The most recent data, collected for the 1995-1996 school year, shows that retention from the first to second fall for 1995-1996 first-time freshmen was 86 percent, compared to 79 percent for the entire system. For upper-division transfer students during the same period, the retention rate was 89 per- cent, and the CSU percentage was 82.

Comparing Cal Poly's retention rate to other school systems becomes more difficult, because each school uses different methods to find its data. However, data suggests Cal Poly's retention rate is generally lower. Cal Poly competes against schools like UCLA, with a retention rate of 95 percent and UC Berkeley, with a 94 percent retention. Cal Poly first awarded bachelor's degrees for the 1942-1943 school year. To date, Cal Poly has awarded 91,905 bachelor's degrees. In the 1997-1998 school year alone, 3,474 degrees were handed out.

Knapf said that while knowing graduation rates is useful, just memo- rizing the numbers is not enough.

"Reporting the numbers is just a tool to figure out how to best serve the students," she said. "We need to translate it into something that will be useful."

One question Knapf has is that the numbers cannot answer is why some students do not return to Cal Poly. Knapf wants to increase student retention, but said students and the university must work together.

"As they talk about it, hopefully they'll come up with some answers," she said. "The only way you can really find out what people are thinking is to talk to them."

Every school must analyze its graduation and retention rates for various organizations. Cal Poly compiles data for six organizations, including the NCAA and Student Right to Know federal legislation. Each organization requires Cal Poly to include certain information, which is based on cohorts, or groups of students that are tracked throughout their college career. Because there is no basic list of criteria to include when determining students' progress toward graduating, Cal Poly developed its own criteria, called the Cal Poly Way.

Transfer students are tracked for four years, the average time found for transfer students to graduate with a degree. Most students fit these criteria, and are in a cohort based on when they entered Cal Poly.
Tan your hide, wear a thong bikini

Summer is just around the corner and it's time to take your gear and head to the beach. Grab your boards, beach balls, towels and thongs, sun screen, and go out to enjoy the sand and sun. Whether the gear is a longboard and war or a thong, sunscreen and sunglasses, it's up to you to bring to play in the waves.

A thong bikini on the cover will reveal just about everything, but for those who choose to wear sexy bathing suits, I go for it.

Yes, people especially guys, stop to stare at women on the beach or at the pool when they wear thongs, but is there anything really wrong with that? It's not like wearing sexy clothes is the only reason guys wear girls.

Enjoy plenty of guns that can just observe nice, cute, sexy women at the beach and will speak to them without staring at their breasts or being rude.

While many span сердует their bodies just to make themselves feel better, others do it to get attention and show off. Do you really think women spend hundreds of hours on treadmills and stanchines so they can walk around the beach in baggy shorts and T-shirts? Of course not! It takes a lot of effort for women to get in good enough shape to feel comfortable showing off their bodies during the hot summer months. And if you're going to show off your body, why not show us in the best possible way?

Besides, things are a great way to cut down on those annoying tan lines. For those who do not want to bother with the other women's bodies and want some tan, there's something constructive. Go join the Red Cross or some other patriotic charity if you want to help out. Hell, with the amount of energy people put into complaining, some of them could make it through Top Gun flight school.

I must say, one of the best benefits of volunteering at Wildflower was the hundreds of beautiful girls walking around in their swim suits all weekend long. One of the worst parts of the weekend was listening to other women complain about what people were wearing. They seemed to think the lack of full sets of clothes was too short and one-strung people to look up at or something. We really expect college kids to do every thing around? I think a lot of the people that say things are too revealing are jealous of the women who look good in them.

There will always be those who think it's offensive or immoral for women to wear skimpy bathing suits. Not to be over critical, but how many of these complainers would you guess would look good in a thong?

If you don't like them, don't wear them. In fact, you don't even have to look at them. Just get off the beach, and go write your time talking to other people who oppose them.

Don't worry about what other people have to say about your thong. Wear what you want. Just remember, your girlfriends probably won't have the heart to tell you if you look bad in a thong, so use your head. Also, for those of you who are debating whether or not to buy a thong or another sexy bathing suit, time might be running out for you. You'll only be in college once, and you'll almost definitely only have a right enough body to wear one of these things for a few more years.

Have fun while you can. If you thought the “thongs” in '90 were bad, wait until you have kids, work full time, and have no time to keep in shape.

Remember to enjoy the beach and its beautiful views this summer. Don't just expect to see you out there.

F. Xavier Laranji is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Stop the madness and cover your ass

Things are just wrong. That's my bar, a bar that's been there for almost 50 years. It doesn't need the total exposure of your rear, either. How many people are going to be inspecting your butt for the qualities of its tan? Any activity you could partake in while at the beach would not be hindered by full cover bathing suits. Wearing a thong actually could be detrimental to your seashore adventures. Imagine the crowd that would gather to admire your naked butt. That could be bad, especially if it wasn't for the Pacific Ocean being right there. And you know how crazy large groups of people get. This neb mental would only be furthered by the eye-popping prospect of plentiful posterior. Your ass could incite a riot. Then you'd never get your tan. This is probably where you all start whining about the Constitution. Sure, you have the right to wear whatever you want. But we can't take this freedom to extremes. Your right to flaunt your intimate areas on the right side of your body are not to be trusted to look at your big booty. Where, I mean, where do one guy's right side and two panty-vested and another's begin? You would never have to look at the butt-bared among them, but why should people be forced to stroll the beach with their bottoms bare? They don't want tan lines on their butts! Besides, walking around with closed eyes is dangerous. You could step on one of these guys, cut yourself on a needle or trip over some seaweed and get sucked into a wild, man-eating rip tide. Being faced with certain death because of someone's uncovered posterior is silly, and you wouldn't want to be held responsible for such crimes against mankind.

And don't hit me with that "So then it's not fair to have thongs unless that's 50 cents a pop." It's just as much Mr. Prude's beach as it is Mr. Strip-Up-His-Butt's. Thong lovers don't have to base it on all to enjoy the beach, while for thong-haters, where else will they go? There's no substitute for the mingling of sun and salt that is the beach, and it's not too hard to let a few butts rub for everyone else.

In conclusion, I believe children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the war. Show them all the beauty you possess inside. But cover up your ass at the beach. Thank you.

Christine Janocko is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.
Summer begins with a bouquet of concerts and festivals blooming up and down the California coast.

The best part: Cal Poly students don’t have to drive far to enjoy some of the best performances the state has to offer.

From July 28 to Aug. 8, the California Mid-State Fair will take over Paso Robles. The Budweiser Grandstand Concert Series offers something for everyone with its featured performers of ZZ Top, Tim McGraw, Britney Spears, Third Eye Blind and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. The week of August 1 begins with Olivia Newton-John, Bon Jovi, Delbert McClinton, Alabama, Reba McEntire and jazz artist David Sanborn. Ticket prices range from $10 to $25, excluding fair admission cost. Free concerts at the fair include Smokin’ Armadillos, Eddie Money, Rick Springfield and Terence Trent D’Arby. For ticket information and performance times, visit the fair’s web page at http://www.midstate-fair.com.

Concerts in the Santa Barbara area include Chris Isaak at the Santa Barbara Bowl July 1 and Co-Optic and Berlin performing at the Santa Barbara Bowl July 9.

The Lilith Fair returns to California with featured artists Sarah McLachlan, Sheryl Crow, Beth Orion, The Pretenders, Hole and the Dixie Chicks. Lilith Fair performances will be at San Diego’s Cox Amphitheater on July 16 and at the Rose Bowl on July 17. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster’s web site; http://www.ticketmaster.com.

For those feeling nostalgic for music from the 1970s, the Ventura Theatre will present the ‘70s Soul Jam with The Stylistics, The Dramatics and Charlie Lands June 10.

One of the most popular concerts this summer is the Bob Dylan/Paul Simon tour. These two artists will be in California from June 16 to 23. Dylan and Simon will perform a 75-minute set with their own band, and then play a few tunes together. The tour will stop in Sacramento, Anaheim, Hollywood and San Diego.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers will play in Irvine and San Diego from August 13 to 19.
Published Poly prof presents his poetry

By Jessica Hagan
Mustang Daily

A professor's work is never done. Whether it be grading papers, instructing students in their studies, or writing poetry as one Cal Poly professor does, there is never a time in a person's life when he's not doing something. James Cushing is an English professor who does all of the above. He will host a poetry reading Thursday, June 3, in Fisher Science Hall, room 296, from 11 a.m. to noon. "I write poetry for the same reason fish swim," Cushing said. "That's who I am, that's what I do. It's also why I teach." Teaching at Cal Poly is what Cushing has been doing for the past 15 years. He also teaches at Cuesta College. He has taught at UC Irvine and Davis, Pasadena City College and Allan Hancock College. "I tend to handle classes like I handle (poetry) readings - only a little more out there," Cushing said with a laugh. "The Length of An Autumn" is Cushing's second book of poetry. It was published only a few weeks ago. His first book of poetry, "You and the Night and the Music," was published in 1991. The latest work includes Romantic-style poetry about the 20th century in poems such as "Pysmotic Romanticism," "Our Love is Here to Stay" and the title poem. During Memorial Day weekend, Cushing gave a poetry reading to a packed room of about 50 people in Pasadena, but packed rooms for Cushing's readings are nothing new.

At a glance: The Top Five Films


CONCERTS

This is not to say, however, that "Instinct" is without fault. At times, especially in some of the jungle scenes, the film starts to become sappy. As a credit to the director, when this occurs the film almost always cuts to another scene or changes subjects before it becomes too blatant. Another weakness of the film is the role of the prison warden. Straight out of "Cool Hand Luke," he is needlessly vengeful and evil. In fact, all of the action purrs this way. They beat and torment the mentally disabled prisoners, apparently for their own enjoyment. Certainly, antagonistic characters are helpful to build a film, but when all the other characters are the protagonists, have more depth, moral ambiguity and flaws such one-dimensional characters possess stick out as underdeveloped.

FILM

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Join VISTA, the domestic Peace Corps, and help insure that all SLO children can read at grade level through Cal Poly's America Reads program. This position is full-time starting around August 1. Compensation includes a $753 per month living stipend, health insurance and end-of-year stipend of either $4,725 education award for college or $1,200 stipend. Application deadline is June 14, 1999. Bachelor's degree required. Call Sam at 756-5839 for additional information. VISTA POSITION FOR "AMERICA READS"

"Instinct" surprisingly good

LOS ANGELES (UPI) - Without having seen the movie, one would probably guess that "Instinct" would leave much to be desired. Frankly, the trailers give the impression that the film is an implausible piece of Hollywood garbage about a man who somehow becomes an ape. Well, don't pay attention to the trailers. In truth, director Jon Turtletaub has crafted an excellent film with depth not often found in cinema these days. Perhaps the strongest asset of "Instinct" is its cast. Academy Award winners Anthony Hopkins and Cuba Gooding Jr. star in the new film "Instinct" now playing at the Downtown Centre Cinema.


FOR "AMERICA READS" VISTA POSITION

Join VISTA, the domestic Peace Corps, and help insure that all SLO children can read at grade level through Cal Poly's America Reads program. This position is full-time starting around August 1. Compensation includes a $753 per month living stipend, health insurance and end-of-year stipend of either $4,725 education award for college or $1,200 stipend. Application deadline is June 14, 1999. Bachelor's degree required. Call Sam at 756-5839 for additional information.
'Byzantium' features Poly's brightest

By Danielle Samaniego
Mustang Daily

Many students look to Graham, King or Rice for a good story, when they do not realize, however, is that they need not look any further than their own Cal Poly campus.

For the past nine years, the English department has compiled a collection known as "Byzantium," a book consisting of work by student authors from Cal Poly. These students are winners of the department's annual creative writing contest, along with honorable mention entries.

The creative writing contest is 29 years old. All students are allowed to participate, including graduate students.

The compilation is offered as an English senior project. In the past only one student was in charge of project. This year there are two head editors, English seniors Amanda Burt and Summer Oram.

"It is very time-consuming and I suggest the book stay as a project for two students," Oram said. She is double majoring in business and English.

"I chose this senior project because it has aspects that are both literary and business-oriented," Oram said.

The two editors worked very closely with Lisa Hoffman, the project's art director. They both commend Hoffman for her countless time and effort that she put into the book.

The product is a beautiful, engaging piece of work that highlights the talents of student writers and poets.

"We're really proud of the way it came out. The quality of the literature is just really great," Burt said.

Burt has also been placed in the collection as an honorable mention in the past two years.

"It was very validating to be a part of 'Byzantium,'" Burt said. Before "Byzantium," Mustang Daily would publish the winners in the Poly Royal edition. Unfortunately, the publication started to become too expensive, according to Kevin Clark, an English professor. Hence, "Byzantium" was born.

No profits are made from the compilation. Instead, any money that is made is placed in the fund for next year's version. It costs roughly $6,000 to produce 400 copies. Money is raised for the project through advertising, space in the book and donations, among other methods.

"Byzantium" is on sale now in the El Corral Bookstore for $11.99 along with past volumes.

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*larger units available, why not team up with a roommate?*
Professor to earn third PhD degree

By F. Xavier Lanier II
Mustang Daily

An aeronautical engineering profes­
sor will graduate from Cal Poly this
year for the third time. Russ
Cummings will graduate next Saturday
with a bachelor's degree in music.
"I played music as a child through high
school. I remember playing at piano recitals when I was six," said
Cummings, who is now 43 years old.
"When I went to engineering school it
seemed natural," he said.
Cummings graduated with a Cal
Poly degree in aeronautical engineer­
ing 22 years ago. He went on to earn
master's degree here and a doctorate in
aerospace from the University of
Southern California.
He returned to Cal Poly in 1996 as
an associate professor. When he gained
tenure in 1997, he decided to make two
music classes.
"I started taking classes, thinking
I could hustle," Cummings said.
"There have been times when I've
been sitting at home, mulling for a
while and thinking, 'Why am I doing
this?'
After seven years, he has earned a
music degree with a concentration in
music history. He has spe­
cialized in the history of early classical
music, from 1720-1792
While on a research sabatical at
Oxford in England, Cummings recreat­
ed a concert that had not been for more than 200 years.
"He's an exemplary student," said
Alyson McLamore, a music history pro­
tessor and Cummings's senior project
adviser. "People forget about the music
that, Cummmings said.
"I still like taking classes, next
semester's going to be a student team or go into the
senior project of mine.
"I'm going to take a little break," Cummings said.
"Cummings will play piano at a
friend's wedding this weekend.
The colleagues are impressed with
his ability to succeed in both tech­

cultural and arts fields.
"I've been asking about which
one I'm going to be the first to give me a music degree," McLamore said.
Cunningham: continued from page 12

The MLB draft might also fulfill the dreams of another standout Cal Poly pitcher, Mike Zirelli.

Zirelli ranks second in Cal Poly history in career wins, strikeouts and innings pitched for the Mustangs. After 22 rounds, Zirelli had yet to receive that all-important call.

"I think I'll be drafted one of the two days," Mike Zirelli said. "I think I should go somewhere,"

Scouts have shown interest in Zirelli for virtually his entire four-year campaign as a starting pitcher for the Mustangs. Three major league teams have been in contact with Zirelli recently.

"I've talked to the Rockies, the Cardinals and the Giants," Zirelli said. "They told me they liked me, and I should get a shot with somebody."

As the ace of the Mustangs pitching staff, Zirelli has proven that he can go out every week and give his team a quality seven-inning start, which has drawn the scouts' eyes.

"One of the things that some teams showed interest in was that I throw a lot of innings," Zirelli said. "They think at the next level it's going to be key to have your arm bounce back because of the longer season."

Zirelli got off to a fast start in his second-half finishing at 7-2, but he had a down second-half finishing at 7-7. Zirelli didn't think this would affect his draft status.

"They like that I pitched here for four years and had a good career and so they are able to look at that and not just my last five or six games," he said. "Most of the scouts have seen me over the course of four years, so they know what to expect."

King: continued from page 12

Complex is being viewed as special treatment for athletes, which is assume thinking, considering the current scarcity of athletic fields. With the parking garage and advanced technology laboratories under construction, the L-shaped Field and the Library Field have been rendered basically useless. The loss of the L-shaped Field behind Mott Gym has left the football team and many club sports — like rugby, lacrosse and field hockey — with only a place to practice on campus. The Library Field has been reduced to such a small area the only thing the baseball players can practice is hitting in a circle. Currently, the baseball team has to play across the street from the dorms of San Luis Obispo Stadium, while the softball team is forced to use a tiny field adjacent to the fragrant dairy unit. When will the favoritism to athletes end?

Of course, there are no complaints from the teams who desperately want the completion of the Sports Complex. The letters only come from the selfish letter-writers who have a grudge against athletes solely because of the countless wedges they received in fifth-period gym class.

Cal Poly has a reputation for its strong academics, something that should give a sense of pride to all students. Yet, this reputation falls far short of those of Stanford, UCLA or Notre Dame. This is because these schools are renowned for their high academic standards as well as their athletic prowess. Athletics and academics work hand-in-hand creating a better university...

Matt King can receive nasty, uninform complaint at miking@polymail.calpoly.edu

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SPORTS
10 June 3, 1999

ADMISSIONS continued from page 12

Athletic Admission Action Process
Since Henry's GPA was within one point of the average GPA for all stu­
dents, and his test scores were within 200 points of the mean for all
accepted students in journalism, he was accepted.
In the fall of 1998, 98 prospective
students applied under Athletic
Admission Action process, and 78
students were admitted. The average
GPA was 3.18 and the average SAT
score was 1,211. Overall, 1,460
freshmen applied in the fall of 1998,
3,430 were admitted and 2,311
enrolled. The average GPA was 3.64
and the average SAT score was 1,164.
In 1994, while former football wide
receiver Ben Winter was a senior at
Amador Valley High School in
Pleasanton, former Cal Poly head
coach Andre Patterson recruited him
as a "Cal Poly Guy."
The social science freshman was
accepted under the Athletic
Admission Action with a 2.9 GPA
and a 975 SAT score.
Winter is now a fifth-year art and
design major and has finished his four­
year eligibility.
"I was a receiver for five years, and
I know that athletics enabled me to
come to Cal Poly," Winter said. "I
think that athletes are the most disci­
plined students at school because they
cannot stay in their sport without tak­
ing school seriously."

Cal Poly's academic requirements
ensure that student-athletes are close,
equivalent to, the general student
body in academic ability. But these
requirements also weed out a lot of
talented student-athletes.
Henry sees how the Athletic
Admission Action process affects his
roommates.
"Our athletic admission standa­
ds may be low," Henry said. "If high
school athletes are barely getting by in
high school, college will be even
tougher for those students, although a
low standard enables more talent­
ed athletes."

Welsh said, "Everyone would like
to have a broader base to recruit from,
but we draw a line. We want to recruit
the upper half of athletes in terms of
academics. These are 'Cal Poly Guys.'
If you get the best athlete, he may not
be able to stay at Cal Poly."

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"We want to recruit the upper half of athletes in terms of academics. These are 'Cal Poly Guys.'"

— Larry Welsh head football coach
DAILY LIFE continued from page 12

vital workouts are over, Fleming is free, but only for a few minutes. He grabs a quick bite to eat at the Avenue and takes his lunch with him to class.

At 2:30 p.m., Fleming again heads back to Mott Gym for a two-hour basketball practice. The team goes off offense and prepares for the next game.

Lifting weights in the Mott Gym weight room is the next part of Fleming's daily routine. Fleming, recognizing that his four-year eligibility will be over after the season, works hard in the weight room.

Fleming arrives home around 7 p.m., but he must prepare for a three-to-four-hour study spree until 12:10 a.m.

Senior Shannon Pierson starts her day a little later—at 9 a.m.—with a bowl of hot oatmeal and some fruit. After she gets ready for school, she catches the bus to take her to Cal Poly.

At 2 p.m., Pierson heads straight to the training room for an ultrasound that warms up her sore leg muscle. In the training room, she also has her leg wrapped in tape so the ultrasound and stretch. Stretching and jumping defines her workouts, which begin at 3 p.m.

Before Pierson runs off to sociology at 4:21 p.m., she grabs an ice cream in the training room so she can ice her leg during class.

After class, and starring for a stack, she once again Aprins to Mott Gym for an hour and a half of weight lifting. If she is lucky she catches the 6:40 bus, which takes her home for the day, but she usually catches the 7 p.m. bus.

Pierson concludes her day eating granola cracker snacks and studying until the 10 p.m. bell rings. She then studies for her social science homework, while preparing a carbohydrate-filled dinner. Pierson falls asleep around 12:30 a.m.
Mustang Daily

By Adam Russo

Mustang Daily

Yesterday's Major League Baseball Draft was a dream come true for Cal Poly pitcher Jeromy Cunningham.

Cunningham, a Bay Area native from Capistrano, was selected by the San Francisco Giants in the fourth round, No. 118 overall. This is the second time Cunningham has been drafted by a major league club. He turned down the Houston Astros in 1996 to play collegiate baseball.

"It's a total dream come true," Cunningham said. "It's like a million different emotions all at once. It's not crazy.

The draft couldn't have been better for Cunningham, who was informed by his father he had been selected by the Giants.

"The scout called my father and wanted him to tell me because it was such a special thing," Cunningham said. "(The Giants) were my number one choice. They're my hometown team. I know Giants fans go all over my room."

Cunningham finished his junior season with a 1-0 record and a 5.99 earned run average for the Mustangs. The Giants were able to overlook his lackluster numbers, backing on his 6-foo, 5-inch frame and the velocity on his pitches.

"My best pitch is my sinking fastball," Cunningham said. "They really liked my movement."

The next step in Cunningham's professional progress is a short season of cookie ball that should end in September, at which time he could return to Cal Poly.

see CUNNINGHAM, page 9

A day in the life of three Poly athletes

Alexis Garbeff Mustang Daily

A Swimmer

At 5:30 a.m., junior Jen Dyer gets to the pool at 6 a.m. to practice her strokes. She also has to use the weight room, attend classes and study.

A classic jocks vs. nerds battle

With the construction of the Sports Complex, the classic battle of nerds vs. jocks has emerged at Cal Poly, just like the Tri-Lums and the Aftermath at Adams College.

In a letter-writing campaign to the editor, some have complained that this latest Foundation project is misdirecting academic funding toward the athletic program. Despite even further complaints from the truth, these disgruntled letter-writers claim athletics contribute nothing to this university and, in general, detract from the environment.

Sports enrich Cal Poly as a whole. Just like academics, athletics promote self-confidence, teamwork, and discipline — making it an important part of human development. Athletes are just as committed to learning and self-exploration as the subject matter in a classroom setting. Remember that most professional Greeks are well known for their philosophical thoughts as well as their Olympic competitions. A student-athlete combines the value of sports and academics to create a completely well-rounded individual.

Unfortunately, like many other groups in society, student-athletes are stereotyped. They are placed into the "dumb jock" category, just as with "Ivy League" or "Bad Chinese drives," there are a few, but in no way do the parts reflect the whole. Student-athletes attend Cal Poly to attain an education as well as compete. In many cases, athletic ability is the financial means to obtaining an expensive college degree. Athletes have the right to see their God-given abilities to achieve academic goals, just as their letter-writing adversaries have the right to play Dungeons & Dragons on Friday nights.

For some reason, the sports

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