Future of teaching topic of colloquium

By Victoria Walsh
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Teachers at Cal Poly are not living up to their promises of making students competent and skilled, said Pat Harris, leadership programs coordinator at the Centennial Celebration Colloquium exploring teaching and learning Cal Poly.

She was one of four keynote speakers discussing the question of "Do (we teachers) Deliver What We Promise?"

The other speakers were Lee B. Burgender, a business professor, Crag Russell, a music professor and Joe Tarica, a Cal Poly alumnus.

The day-long event was part of a year-long process of asking what it means to say "Cal Poly is a center of learning."

Joe Grimes, special assistant to the provost, said groups established last spring would help answer the question and interpret what was discussed throughout the day.

Study abroad a popular option for Cal Poly students

By Christine Powell
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

Left hoorah: Welsh and football team's last game, 9

A digital library would allow citizens to have the information readily available, she said.

"The courses offered are general education-oriented, students take Cal Poly classes with Cal Poly professors, and they don't lose anything toward graduation."

The second largest program is the International Program (IP), which oftens students the choice between 35 recognized universities in 16 different countries. Students stay abroad for one year, and the trip is largely subsidized in an effort to help as many students as possible to develop international communication skills and international understanding.

see ABROAD, page 6

UCLA professor speaks on possibility of digital library

By Kara Knutson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"When the Founding Fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution, they were worried about unformed people shaping the future of the United States. Democracy could not function without an informed public, and to be informed people had to read books, search through encyclopedias, peruse newspapers and plugs into Web sites on the Internet. Imagine a tool superior to even the Internet that would perform a highly organized search on any given topic, and have the information readily available within seconds."

Philip Agre, associate professor of information studies at University of California, Los Angeles, raised this question and introduced the idea of a digital library in a lecture called "Supporting the Intellectual Life of a Democratic Society."

About 40 people attended the lecture, which was free and open to the public, on Wednesday night in Phillips Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

At the beginning of the lecture, Agre said a digital library would make it easier for people to be informed about topics of interest to themselves and in a result, make more informed decisions about the future of their country.

"Everyone has questions, and in the ideal world everyone would be matched with whatever book speaks most squarely to the questions that they have in a given moment," he said.

Agre added that society does a poor job matching people to books and that more can be done to provide people with information about the topics they need. The Internet doesn't always provide the exact information people need. They enter a word or phrase and receive a list of Web sites they must search through before finding what they need.

A digital library would allow people to access a wealth of information about other people's experiences and would allow others to learn from the experiences of others.

"An intellectual life need not be "intellectual" in any stereotyped sense," he said. "An intellectual life is not just for introspective people. It can be equally relevant to someone who stays immersed in practical action and mixing with other people. Fiction, music and television can certainly be part of intellectual life, even if much of the output in those media is not intended that way."

Agre said most people don't have access to the type of in-depth information a digital library could provide.

"Ordinary citizens often feel far at the prospect of exercising a public voice," he said.

Normally during public debate, ordinary citizens are invisible except for brief appearances in letters to the editor or sound bites chosen by journalists.

Agre said a democracy requires that citizens have the opportunity to learn more about matters that concern them.

A digital library would allow citizens to research their arguments and encourage them to join public debate because they will be more informed.
**News**

**TEACHING**

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"We want to solve the problems, if there are any," Grimes said. "We want to establish a foundation for effort. We will take the whole outcome of today and, involving the students, faculty, staff, we’ll see where to go next."

Burkander said one of the best things about Cal Poly was its willingness to take risks, make mistakes and learn from those mistakes.

He said today is an exciting time to be a teacher with the wealth of tools to be utilized.

"I’m thrilled about being here and I want my students to learn it all," Burkander said. "But we have to make careful choices about why and how we teach it."

Harris said lack of diversity is one of the challenges Cal Poly needs to address to obtain the promise of making students fully educated.

Harris said San Luis Obispo is different from the rest of the world and that it lacks age, gender and race diversity.

"We live in a bubble," Harris said. "Is (San Luis Obispo) a white, affluent bubble. The West of California, and the world, is involved in a much richer stew of multiculturalism and differences and diversity... We’re sending them (the students) into a really diverse and really globally interconnected world. We are not keeping our promises. They are not ready for that."

Tarica, a 1993 journalism and English graduate, said teachers shouldn’t rely only on textbooks and lectures. He said teachers should be innovative, practical and inspirational.

"To be an institution of higher learning," Tarica said, "you first have to be an institution of higher teaching."

Russell said the heart of teaching and learning is not found in a chart, computer software, the Internet or a committee.

"The heart of teaching and learning is found in the caring and passion that we (teachers) bring with us," Russell said.

He said the role of teaching cannot be measured or counted. He also said teachers shouldn’t rely just on accountability or responsibility.

"When we deliver what we promise," Russell said, "we’ll see it in our students’ eyes."

Following the keynote presentation, participants had a working lunch. At the beginning of the luncheon, the group at each table was given a question to discuss. At the end of the lunch, each group summarized the answers it came up with.

Some of the questions were: "What is good teaching and how do we know that we’ve accomplished it?" Recognizing budget constraints, participants had to deal with the workload barrier, and: "In what ways and to what extent should Cal Poly become further involved in distance learning?"

Answers to these questions will be used to decide where to take the university next and further explore teaching and learning at Cal Poly.

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**PROTEST**

continued from page 1

Latin American countries firsthand. In her travels through Guatemala, Mexico, Belize and other places, she has seen the sobering reality of military instability. She says war-vitner often to realize the conditions in these places and that military force does not bring peace.

"I feel like here I can make an impact," she said. "People hate to know and be outraged!"

Elliot’s goal in flying to George is clear. "I just want to cause a ruckus," she said.

Elliot and her fellow Cal Poly protesters will begin brunch with a six-hour vigil at the gate of the school. On Sunday, protesters will reconvene for a short memorial service to remember all victims of SOA-trained soldiers. About half of the group will then move in silent procession led by coffee bearers onto the base. Each protester will carry a white wooden cross, and many will wear masks and black clothes.

In previous years, those crossing onto Fort Benning property were stopped by police, ordered onto buses and dropped off a mile or two from base. Some protesters were arrested for "high risk" activities, including placing barriers in trees on base, dressing body outlines in chalk, etching blood on themselves, Elliot said.

SOA Watch encourages protesters to express themselves, yet remain peaceful.

Elliot is practical about the impact of this weekend’s protest.

"It’s unrealistic to think the SOA will close this year," she admitted. "I just hope more people will become educated and aware."

The House of Representatives voted last May to close the current SOA, yet approved opening it under a different name at the same location. The SOA holds that ittrans its soldiers to value human rights and that it has made positive changes recently. SOA Watch, however, reports that some SOA supporters have admitted these changes are only superficial.
By Matt Smart
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

I know that it is a contradiction, but I have driven my truck hard with my music blaring, to find quiet and quiet. Solitude is hard to find in today's world. Life happens while we run errands. It seems as if the house always needs something and a job is always there to be finished. But, I can only take so much responsibility so, I always need something and a job is always needed.

In this world, little happens while we run errands. I would bring along a light meal to make me upright. In the early evening, I would bring along my sunglasses. When it rains, I bring my umbrella. When it is sunny, I bring my sunglasses. In the ocean, I scramble to find peace and quiet. I just need to get away and a little weather will not slow down my healing.

I need healing often. I was raised on a beach and have not gotten used to the thought of going to a job to make a living on the beach. School brings up these possible realities and so I must retreat before the expectations get me over my head.

The Sandspit is the first paved road to the right after entering Montana de Oro State Park. The small parking lot can hold 40 cars or so. I have never seen more than 10. However, I rarely make the drive out there on the weekend, too many joggers, travelers, families and students for my taste. I prefer to go to the Spit when the weather keeps everybody away.

From the parking lot, there is a short trail that leads across the sand-landscape to the beach. The trail is maintained and is as obvious as a sidewalk. As soon as the ocean is visible, I make my way across the bluff that parallels the beach to a comfortable place to sit. For enough away so that I do not overhear some surfer talk up the surf to his buddy.

Once I am seated, I begin to unwind. My spirits are up because the music I have been listening to has aumping beat. My mind begins to release the stream of garbage it has collected and I become entranced by the crashing breakers on the sand. Spooner's Cove is but a short drive further into Montana de Oro. Wind through the Eucalyptus trees and back into the sunlight to find the cove that stretches close to half a mile across. Here, very few waves break on the sand. There is only sand on the inside of the bay closest to the road and beach. Occasionally, I see surfers on those sides of the cove, there are rocks that rise jaggedly from the ocean. The sides of the cliff are steep. They allow very little access from the cliff edge to the tide pools and outcroppings of the shoreline. The steep cliffs line the north and south edges of the bay with the entrance road and a small beach, connecting the two.

At the main beach there are 50 yards of sandy beach running from the south to a large rock that stretches to 40 feet into the sky. Numerous adventures can be seen climbing across the rock on busy days. When I go to Spooner's Cove, I leave my car alongside the road and jump on a trail that leads out to the western cliffs. Once I have reached this western point, I scramble to find a slightly hidden place to sit and contemplate.

When the waves are big, I watch them crash on the coastal shelf. Occasionally, I observe surfers on those waves. Those individuals appear to be on the thin line between being brave or uneducated. Big waves in my book begin with wave heights best measured in heart rates, not feet. I know the wave is big when I paddle for it and it gets darker as a shadow covers me over.

The beach at the San Simeon State Park is a bit cry from the crashing waves of Montana de Oro. Most of the beach, or the Cove as the locals call it, is protected by a redwood-covered headland from the winds and waves. The bay that is created by the headland has more boats than surfers. There is a pier that reaches out into the sea. The railings of the pier are made of wood and are covered with carvings from visitors. One lady day I went out and took pictures of the artwork. Those people sure had a lot to say. I was told to give my body a rest. It's a special treat when I make my way on the hard-packed sand out to a trailhead that leads up the bluff from the sand to the forest. I hike out to the headland, find a trail and then search for a meadow to sit in. With the sun across my face, I tend to slip into deep sleep.

This type of sleep refreshes the body and brings health back to the soul. The sunshine, the clean air and lack of tension revitalizes me. Every college student has his own way of escaping the pressures of school life and freeing his own personal cares. I find mine along the coast. The smell of the ocean is distinct and cannot be replaced by anything else. After a week or two away from the water, I begin to dry up. My pulse quickens and patience disappears. So I drive my truck land, with the music blaring to find solace.
Today’s issue: Florida’s infamous butterfly ballots
Idiots should not vote/Uncertainty taints vote

A line from a joke butterfly sample ballot making the rounds through e-mail says, “I’m a complete idiot and don’t deserve to be able to exercise my right to vote and decide the fate of the nation the kind of thing that the planet.” This pretty much sums up the Florida ballot fiasco that continues to foster our nation.

The situation with the Florida ballot recount is reprehensible, and I’m finding it harder and harder to disagree with people who say that Floridians should not be allowed to vote anymore—sort of a time-out for the voters until they’ve learned from their mistakes.

In the wee hours of Nov. 8, America was told that George W. Bush had won the presidential election. A week later we still had no idea how the race would turn out. Why? Some Florida voters suddenly weren’t sure if, by accident, they had voted for Pat Buchanan instead of Al Gore.

Give me a break. Their complaints about confusing, invalid and even illegal ballots make no sense at all. The way some people describe the ballots make them seem confusing, but one look at them will make anyone-mot of time-out for the voters until they’ve learned from their mistakes.

The excuses about elderly voters getting easily confused didn’t hold water, either. First, if they’re not in a condition where they can accurately read a ballot, they should be staying home and voting by absentee ballot.

Second, in several television news reports, random elderly people (as well as middle-aged people and elementary school children) were asked to fill in the correct bubble for their candidate using a Florida-type ballot. Although some still complained that the ballots were confusing, they all were capable of choosing the correct bubble.

That sounds a little fishy to me. The same people who can accurately fill in the bubbles are the ones whining the loudest about the unfairness of the design.

Because of people’s whining and plain old stupidity (of if in fact they really didn’t figure out which bubble to fill in), the state of Florida has been a basket case of legal insanity over questions of such things as the legality of the ballots.

The butterfly ballots were not illegal. If they had, someone would have pointed this out long before the election, because both Democrats and Republicans had approved them. Although not ideal (and this is not very common, they were designed within the guidelines of the law. They were also printed in sample ballots and newspapers prior to the election. Why didn’t anyone complain about the confusion then?

The ballots were similar to those in many Missouri counties, so why is no one in Missouri complaining about their ballots being confusing?

The shear number of people who say they were confused by the ballot or punched the wrong hole is statistically out of this world. Why, did so many people in Palm Beach County alone claim to have mispunched their ballot, when other counties or states with the same kind of ballot did not?

Another reason to discount their complaints is that confused voters had the opportunity at the polls to make sure they were voting for the right person. They could have asked a precinct worker for clarification if they were confused. If they punched the wrong hole, they could have asked for a new ballot.

However idiotic the voters in Florida seem to me, it’s the crybabies politicians and blabbermouths on the losing side who are causing most of the trouble. They simply cannot gracefully concede a loss and they make a soap opera out of a simple ballot design. Still, Democrats. Voting for intelligent people.

Karim Driesen is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily news editor.

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CATCH THE EXCITEMENT!

TONIGHT

*Women's volleyball vs. UCSB — 7 pm in Mott Gym*

SATURDAY

*Football Game vs. Youngstown State*

  1 pm in Mustang Stadium

*Women's Basketball vs. Eastern Washington*

  7 pm in Mott Gym

MONDAY

*Men's Basketball vs. UC San Diego — 7 pm in Mott Gym*

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Be the lucky Cal Poly student to win a trip for four to Cancun by catching the most mini-balls at selected Cal Poly events this year.

Go to the games. Catch the balls. Go to Cancun.
ABROAD
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The third most popular program is abroad The Golden Bear, a 500 foot ex-
Navy oceanographic vessel, used in the past to map the floor of the Pacific
Ocean.
"It is the only study abroad program that's geared toward the sciences," Leroy
said.
In cooperation with California Maritime Academy, students get the
opportunity to see the world on a ship. This spring, students will travel to
Guam, the Philippine Islands, Hawaii, China, Japan, Midway and Yap. There
are still spots that need to be filled. The deadline is Jan. 15 and students may
apply in building 38, room 145.
If money is the problem, financial aid is readily available, said Dave Ciano,
outreach program manager for Financial Aid.
"I wouldn't want the lack of money to be a reason for anybody not going," Ciano
said. "The very least you could end up borrowing is $5,500."
The Financial Aid Office is open for questions about study abroad from 9
a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, except Wednesday.
The Thailand trip is the least expensive and is comparable to spending one
quarter at Cal Poly.
"It comes very close to being cheaper than one quarter at Cal Poly," Leroy
said.
Work study and internships are also available. British Universities North
America Club, is a work study program in cooperation with the British govern-
ment.
Students interested in one of these programs should stop by the resource
library located in building 38, room 106.

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Volleyball

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“The goal is to challenge a very good team, to play efficiently, to make them work,” he said. “If we can create problems maybe we can sneak past them.”

Gregory’s game plan against the Mustangs is simple.

“The concern is we need to pass the ball well and have a good offensive game to counteract their good blocking,” she said.

The Mustangs rank No. 1 in blocking in the Big West due to the play of sophomores Worthy Lien and Ginger Bailey. Lien is ranked No. 6 nationally. As a team, Cal Poly ranks No. 3.

Tonight’s game begins at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

Sanchez

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half, but not the whole game. My Take: Raiders

Miami (8-2) at NY Jets (6-4):

Three weeks ago I said the Jets wouldn’t be able to keep up their lucky fourth quarter comebacks and I was right. Since then, the Jets have lost their last three games. Their luck won’t get any better this week as they face off against a great Miami team. Miami’s defense has been good this whole year, but lately it’s the offense that has been looking good. In Miami’s last six games they have been averaging 26 points per game. Let’s do the math here: Miami is scoring 26 points a game, only giving up 13 points, and factor in a lucky Jets team - that equals a Miami win.

My Take: Miami

Cincinnati (2-8) at New England (2-8): Why am I writing about this game? The Patriots are my favorite team, and this is their last good game of the season. They won’t get any better this week as they face off against a great Miami team. Miami’s defense has been good this whole year, but lately it’s the offense that has been looking good. In Miami’s last six games they have been averaging 26 points per game. Let’s do the math here: Miami is scoring 26 points a game, only giving up 13 points, and factor in a lucky Jets team - that equals a Miami win.

My Take: Miami

Sanchez is a business sophomore. E-mail him at alert_the_yard@yahoo.com

Football

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enjoying this Saturday’s game as much as possible. He explained that the players have played only about 35 games in their college careers, and some have just played the games this season.

“The games should be for the players,” Webb said. “They’ve got to cherish every game.”

The Mustang football players will undoubtedly play their hearts out this Saturday. After a disappointing season, the Mustangs want to end on a win and give Welsh a positive farewell.

“The players and the people I work with at Cal Poly have been very supportive,” Webb said. “Our kids are good people and good students. They have been gentlemen at all times, as well as tough football players.”

This Saturday’s game against Youngstown State starts at 1:05 p.m. at Mustang Stadium.
**Ready for week 12 in the NFL?**

Now that the NFL season is nearly three-quarters complete, there are a few surprises that are becoming clear to fans. The Saints are finally becoming a team to reckon with, but not after Ricky Williams broke his ankle. Williams is out for six to eight weeks which basically ended his and the Saints' seasons. The Saints are done. We're talking wildcard berth at best, and then losing in the wildcard round. Fantasy players should be careful before starting Al Del Greco. Del Greco went 1-2 on field goals, 0-1 from scrimmage, and 2-1 from kickoff.

**Matt Sanchez in extra points**

Del Greco's misses also caused the Titans to lose their first game ever at Adelphia Coliseum. One more thing — sorry to all those Champs fans out there. It's not going to get any easier. Here's my picks for week 12:

Washington (6-4) at St. Louis (8-2): Is Washington the best team money can buy? Not this week. I know the Rams don't have Kurt Warner and Marshall Faulk, but who cares? They are still the greatest show on earth. Trent Green has more than proven himself, and he's getting paid $5 million a year and has the best offense ever around him. The Rams beat a tough Giants team at home last week, and will ride that win for another this week over a strong NFC East opponent. Washington won't win because they have no passing game. Albert Connell, their number one wide receiver, has only 27 catches in 10 games this year, which isn't going to cut it in this league.

My Take: St. Louis

Oakland (8-2) at New Orleans (7-3): I know I said the Saints are done, but maybe the heart of that defense can keep them in this one. Then again, maybe not. I've gone against Oakland every game this year, and I'm finally jumping on board and taking them in one. Without a running game New Orleans will be forced to pass, and the Oakland corners will shut down the New Orleans receivers. Oakland's offense is just too explosive. The Saints defense may be able to hold down Rich Gannon for a few more weeks.