Poly professors design splint to aid U.S. troops

The Polymeric arm and leg splint uses flexible plastic to immobilize the fracture while still providing room for swelling

Nicole Stivers

Two Cal Poly professors have developed a new type of splint for military use. The Polymeric arm and leg splint weighs less than one pound and is not made of metal, but will be marketed to the general public.

The military engineering professor Lanny CiritFin, and chemistry professor Nicole Stivers are the ones behind the project in January of 2002. Griffin sought Jones' assistance to develop a plastic that would be appropriate for this type of situation. Jones created a two-part pre-plastic that is stored in a small plastic bag. When the splint is needed, the plastics are combined with KEVlar fibers added strength, then molded to the injured extremity. The entire product is self-contained and easy to apply.

Two Cal Poly professors designed the Polymeric arm and leg splint. It is made of a two-part pre-plastic and is combined with KEVlar fibers. The splint combines a thin piece of aluminum and adhesive tape to keep broken or fractured bones stable before more permanent care can be administered.

Both the military and public sectors, such as paramedics and ski patrol, use the splint for pre-hospital and outdoor medical care. The PML splint does not require extensive training to learn how to use.

"We designed it to be applied effectively with minimum training," Griffin said. "When you are in a situation where people are shooting at you, you don't want to be fiddling around."

The military released an announcement online seeking a new kind of splint and Griffin signed onto the project in January of 2002. Griffin said he wanted to improve on the SAM Splint, which is lightweight and easy to use but does not accommodate swelling.

The notion behind the survey, as part of the Information and Communication Technology Literacy Effort, "is that we are living in a digital age and increasingly we must use appropriate technology to find, organize and communicate information," Mary Somerville, Assistant Dean of Information and Instructional Services of the Robert E. Kennedy Library and the campus coordinator of the survey.

All 23 campuses in the CSU system are participating in this survey. Free hundred freshmen that live in the residence halls were randomly selected and invited to participate in the e-mail survey from President Warren Baker.

"This is an opportunity for higher education to be better aligned with where students are in terms of technology," said Preston Allen, assistant vice president for student affairs and director of housing and residential life.

"Students are learning very quickly how to navigate, access, interpret and respond to things electronically."

To encourage students to participate in the assessment survey, each student will receive a $25 Internet gift certificate, a T-shirt and a chance to win an iPad or a $250 El Corral bookstore gift certificate.

"I am really excited because it gives them a great opportunity to really teach in on and change the way in which the curriculum, services and programs are delivered here at Cal Poly," Allen said.

The assessment survey measures technological and computer skills and should take students about one and a half to two hours to complete.

"The test is actually a case study," Somerville said. "The test assesses the students' ability to make judgments about particular information needed to accomplish a particular outcome."

CSU to assess freshmen technology know-how

The California State University system will survey 500 randomly selected students from all 23 CSU campuses via e-mail.

Caitlin Donnell

The California State University system is asking 500 randomly selected freshmen to take part in an assessment survey to measure students' ability to use technology to navigate, organize and communicate information that is presented to them electronically.

Watch out for flying horses

Animal science junior Renae Beggs rides Mick in an open fences class at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association event put on by the Cal Poly equestrian team last weekend.

SHEILA SORCHI

Randolph E. Schmid

WASHINGTON — Declines in death rates from most major causes have pushed Americans' life expectancy to a record 77.6 years. Women are still living longer than men, but the gap is narrowing.

Women now have a life expectancy of 80.1 years, 5.3 more than men. That's down from 5.4 years in 2002 and continues a steady decline from a peak difference of 7.8 years in 1979, the National Center for Health Statistics said Monday in an annual mortality report.

Research indicates there also is an increase in active life expectancy, said Mary A. Salmon, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina. "It's not that we're having a lot of very old, sick people," she said in a telephone interview.

She added, "There has been lots of improvement here."
Splint continued from page 1

interested in marketing the splint and is developing the packaging. He said it will take another year before the splint is on the market.

"This project shows that there is research that is funded by the government that will have applications down the road for the general public," Jones said.

Both Griffin and Jones said they value the experience they have gained from working on this and similar projects. Jones said his work benefits both himself and his students. Developing new plastics gives Jones a better perspective about what he is teaching. It allows him to share first hand experiences with his students.

"I really like working on a project with an applied focus where students can see a real world application," Jones said. "It enables me to give examples of what we have done here at Cal Poly to students in the classroom."

Survey continued from page 1

School officials say it is too soon to be statistically valid and reliable. 250 students will have to participate in the survey. So far, Allen said that 90 students have taken the survey. Somerville said that 40 students have taken the survey.

"If we have statistically significant results then those results to assist subsequent years of freshmen classes to have instruction geared to their level of ability," Somerville said.

"If we have campus-wide data, then we will be able to develop curriculum that truly recognizes what students know and to address deficiencies in what students do not know."

The response from students has been good so far, but they hope to have at least 250 students take the survey, Somerville and Allen said.

"With this test, we hope to realign ourselves so that we can help students get to where they want to go in terms of their preparation to really function in a global society," Allen said.

China, Egypt, Sudan cited for human rights abuses

In North Korea, an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 people are believed to be in detention camps in remote areas

Barry Schweid
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Man's inhu­
manity to man was documented anew Monday by the State Department as it surveyed human rights abuses last year in countries of found­

ary torture in Syria, serious abuses in China and the killing of civilians by government-backed militia in Sudan.

Aegy, a close ally of the United States in Mideast peacemaking, was condemned for security forces tortur­

ing prisoners and for mass arrest­

ing Iran's "poor human rights record sustained," the State Department said. Summary executions, political killings, disappearances and imprisonment were among the cited abuses in Iran.

North Korea, which President Bush has denounced as part of "an axis of evil," is one of the world's most repres­

sive and brutal regimes, the report said. An estimated 150,000 to 200,000 peo­

ple are believed to be in detention camps in remote areas, and defectors report many have died from torture, starvation and disease.

Russia was credited with generally respecting the human rights of its citi­

ens. Both sides in the dispute over Chechnya showed little respect for basic human rights and there were reports of killings, it said.

"By anybody's account, Russia has moved backward in the past year," Michael Kozak, assistant secretary for human rights, told reporters.

Last week, at a summit meeting in Slovakia, Putin, responding to "tough and clear" criticism from Bush, said Russia was committed to democracy.

Syria's human rights record is poor, the report said. Syrians do not have a right to change their government and "continuing serious abuses included the use of torture in detention, which at times resulted in death," unfair trials and arbitrary arrests.

Terrorism fell off in post-Taliban Afghanistan, respect for human rights in Ukraine rose with the staging of free elections, and what the report said were prospects for peace in Iraq "help create momentum for the improve­

ment of human rights practices."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's promise last weekend to hold multi-candidate elections came too late to be reflected in the report, which accused government-controlled security forces of numerous, serious human rights abuses.

Egyptians do not have the mean­
ingful ability to change their govern­

ment, the report said, noting Mubarak was serving a fourth six-year term as a result of national referenda in which he was not opposed.

China, described as an authoritarian state, denies its citizens freedom to operate the Chinese Communist Party's political system, the report said.

The government used war on terror as a pretext for cracking down on peace­

ful Uighurs and for mass arrests and does not permit outsiders to monitor the human rights situation in the country, the report to Congress added.

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If you are interested in learning additional information, RSL representatives will be hosting an Information Session on March 2, 2005 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Sandwich Factory, Building 19.

If you are interested but unable to attend, please mail/fax/e-mail resume to: Belinda Jordan, PHR, H.R. Generalist, 2001 Market Street, Suite 1500, Philadelphia, PA 19103. FAX: (267) 256-3543. Belinda.jordan@rsl.com
Mostly I do fear thy 'Macbeth'!

Elizabeth Engelman
MUSTANG DAILY

Many would say if you've seen one Shakespeare play, you've seen them all, and Cal Poly's version of "Macbeth" would be no different. Nothing about director and the-ater professor Josh Machamer's rendition of Macbeth was bad, but nothing was particularly spectacular either.

The play begins in complete darkness with dramatic bangs filling the theater. Throughout the play, the sound effects proved menacing and heart thumping. Too bad the acting wasn't the same.

For a little refresher course in high school English, let's briefly review the plot of one of Shakespeare's most famous plays. Three witches tell Macbeth he is destined to become King of Scotland. After he hears this prophecy, he decides to murder the current king to fulfill the prediction. With the help of his wife, Lady Macbeth, he succeeds and becomes king, which drives him insane. He kills many other people in his quest to keep his title. As each prophecy comes true, Macbeth starts to believe he is invincible. He loses his wife, his friends and in the end, his life.

This production was more con-fining than inventive. Main charac- ters, such as King Duncan, were barely seen. His lines were even read by different characters. Also, certain key monologues were missing which made the story hard to fol-low.

Dickie Copeland, Keila Copeland and Miriam Harris are compelling as the witches. Their constant cawing and hunchback-like walking made them scary, yet childlike. They seemed to go in and out of their spooky, crackling "witch" voices though, which made their characters less convincing.

The subtle symbolism in the play, such as the costumes, was one of the most interesting and creative parts. All the men on stage wore trench coats and plaid scarves. The scarves represent their life and as a person dies, their scarf is given to their mur-derer. The use of red cloth to sym-bolize death was nicely done. After Banquo is murdered, he came back onstage with red netting draped over his head and wrapped around his body.

Nicolas Collins, who played Macbeth, portrayed well the slow deterioration of a man as a result of the sins he committed. Throughout the play however, his voice would change and become a bit muffled and an unidentifiable accent would emerge which, at times, made his monologues more amusing than powerful.

Sarah Chapell (Lady Macbeth) was by far the most authentic char-ac-ter. She played the manipulative wife with such conviction that, as she goes insane, one doesn't even feel sorry for her. Her screams in one scene were so real, the audience was holding in breath and only let it out as the lights came on for inter-mission.

Macbeth continues its run in the Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre Thursday through Saturday. If you don't mind spending some money, and have two and a half hours to spare, fine. But if you want to see something inventive, this is not the play for you.
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Letters to the Editor

The top five reasons
I am not a Republican

1. Because I believe everyone should have to work hard — even the wealthy.
2. Because I believe in taking responsibility for mistakes — even for corporations.
3. Because I believe that everyone deserves respect — not just people who look and act like me.
4. Because I believe in free speech — even if it isn’t “Christian” or “decent.”
5. And the No. 1 reason I am not a Republican:
   I don’t believe someone 3,000 miles away telling me what I should believe in.
Brandon McHargue
Computer science

The top five reasons
I am not a Democrat

1. Because I believe everyone should have to work hard — even the poor.
2. Because I believe in taking responsibility for mistakes — even for minorities.
3. Because I believe that everyone deserves respect — not just students.
4. Because I believe in free speech — even if it isn’t “PC.”
5. And the No. 1 reason I am not a Democrat:
   I don’t believe someone 3,000 miles away telling me what I should believe in.
Brandon McHargue
Computer science

Non-teaching salaries vary greatly from teaching ones

I have no qualms about employees being paid “what they are worth.” In particular I noticed that the new volleyball coach was hired at $90,000 per year, which grows to at least $90,000 per year grows to at least $80,000. The athletic department should believe in.
Brandon McHargue
Computer science

If some employees are going to be paid “to retain the best people possible,” shouldn’t that apply to the teaching employees?

— STEVEN MARX
English department

Social Security is not as difficult to understand

Somehow people have made Social Security a difficult subject to understand and a perplexing problem to solve. But it’s really not.

The program’s benefits are rising faster than in revenue, which means we’ve got a lot of trouble paying for those benefits. The program also offers you a lousy deal. The solution is, first, to keep future benefits from growing so fast; second, to ask our elected officials to stop shrinking doesn’t make the program a better deal for young workers.

Second, something should be done that allows them to build up retirement savings to make it for retirement. Which means their taxes should be cut a bit, too, on the condition that they can afford the money they get for retirement. That, in a nutshell, is the reform Progressives seem to be asking for. I hope they can propose. Was that so hard?

The true problem lies not in the reform, but the politics.

Gary Fisher
History sophomore

Send your letters to the editor

Send your letters to the editor

got something to say?

LETTER POLICY

Send us your love, hate and more

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By e-mail: opinion@mustangdaily.net
By mail: Letters to the Editor
Building 26, Room 226
Cal Poly, SL 93407
Pac-10
continued from page 8

"I don't know so much if he lost the match because his neck hurt, but he hasn't been able to get in the training he normally would," Matt Azevedo said. "He wrestled well; he sucked it up and did what he had to do to get into the finals. He'll feel a lot better at the NCAA tournament, that's for sure."

Cal Poly had hoped to improve upon their second place finish at last year's tournament but ended up in fifth place going into the finals. A number of wrestlers on the team were dissatisfied with the tournament's outcome and the team's overall performance.

"We should have won. When it came down to tough matches, we didn't do them when we could have," 165-pound Brandon Barrios said.

Here's how the two-day tournament played out:

Cal Poly led the team standings with 53 points after the first two rounds of competition on Sunday, with Arizona State in second with 48 points, followed by Cal State Bakersfield with 40 points and defending Pac-10 champion Berkeley State in sixth with 36.5 points. The Mustangs had seven wrestlers qualify for the semifinal round, the most out of all the teams. Moreno won 2-1 over Oregon State's Eric Stevenson. At 133 pounds, Chad Mendes beat Lucas Hamblen from Portland State 18-5. Espera won 3-1 over Davis' Jeff Bristol. At 149 pounds, Jeff Owens beat Josh Zapata of Stanford.

Barrios beat Frank Richard from UC Davis 2-1. At 184 pounds, Ryan Halsey won 2-1 over Stanford's Ryan Hagen. At 197 pounds, Ralph Garcia beat Travis Gardner of Oregon State 5-4.

Three Cal Poly wrestlers did not advance to the semifinals including TJ Ferguson at 157 pounds, Yari Kelika at 174 pounds, and Arlen Boddhi at 285. Ferguson lost 18-5-2 to Stith. Kelika lost 6-1 to Sanchez, Boddhi lost 10-7 to Eric Smith of South Dakota State.

Cal Poly lost the first place position in the team standings to Arizona State after Sunday night's semifinals, where the Sun Devils, with four finalists, increased their point total to 88. Meanwhile, Cal Poly slipped to fourth place with 61.5 points and only two finalists. All 10 schools competing in the tournament had at least one finalist.


The other five Mustangs went to the consolation round. Mendes was pinned by Matt Sanchez of Cal State Bakersfield in 2:54. Owens lost 5-2 to Portland State's Eddie Dahlen. Barrios lost 4-0 to Joey Brocamoto from Oregon. Halsey was seeded third but lost 4-1 to Dollaway for the third time in four matches this season. Garcia lost 7-2 to Arizona State's Ryan Bader.

Matt Azevedo said that wrestling in front of the home crowd may have been part of the reason why the Mustangs did not seem as aggressive as normal on Monday.

"I think it might have played a little into it," Azevedo said. "It'll be fine." Halsey attributed his results to the junior didn't wrestle that bad and all of his matches were given day," Azevedo said. "He's ready to wrestle the duration of his time plus a little into it," Halsey said. "It'll be fine." Halsey attributed his results to the junior didn't wrestle that bad and all of his matches were given day," Azevedo said. "He's ready to wrestle the duration of his time plus a little into it," Halsey said. "It'll be fine."
The Pac-10 teams filled Mott Gym for a two-day tournament; Cal Poly finished fifth with Vic Moreno leading the way in the 125-pound class.

Nicole Stivers  
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly took fifth place at the 2005 Pacific-10 tournament, finishing one point behind UC Davis. Seven Mustang wrestlers finished in the top five in their weight classes.

Vic Moreno placed first in the 125-pound weight class and Steve Esparza won second place in the 141-pound division. The Mustangs had three fourth place finishers and two who finished fifth.

Among the remainder of the finalists Monday night, Boise State's Scott Jorgensen beat Matt Sanchez of Cal State Bakersfield for the 133-pound title, Boise State's Ben Cherrington wallowed Eddie Dahlen of Portland State 9-3 at 285 pounds, and Arizona State's Cain Velasquez triumphed over Portland State's Allen Kennett 4-2 at 174 pounds.

Additionally, Leonel Sanchez of Cal State Fullerton beat Oregon State's Jeremy Larson 4-2 at 174 pounds, CB Dollaway of Arizona State dominated Oregon's Joey Bracamonte defeated Oregon State's Matt Ellis 6-5 at 165 pounds.

Cal Poly head coach John Azevedo was pleased with the Mustangs' performance.

"I think overall the kids have wrestled very hard and performed well. We had a lot of close losses, but we won some close ones also," Azevedo said. "There were definitely some crucial ones there that we lost close. It makes a big difference in the team score."

Moreno, the top seed, defeated No.3 Efren Ceballos of Cal State Bakersfield in the 125-pound finals.

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Moreno, the top seed, defeated No.3 Efren Ceballos of Cal State Bakersfield in the 125-pound finals. Moreno placed third place at the Pac-10s in 2003 and 2004. Ceballos placed fourth in last year's tournament and second in 2003.

Moreno led throughout the match and won 9-2. In the first period, Moreno scored four points with two takedowns and Ceballos scored a point for an escape. Both Moreno and Ceballos scored one point in the second period; Moreno for Ceballos' stalling and Ceballos for an escape. Moreno scored three more points in the third period, two for a takedown and one for an escape and one for advantage time.

"I'm ecstatic. I hit my shots when the opportunity was there and didn't take very many bad shots," Moreno said. "I wrestled really well and shut (Ceballos) down."

In the 141-pound finals, Juan Mora of Cal State Fullerton defeated Esparza, 6-1. Mora dominated the match, especially after Esparza used most of his injury time in the first period. Mora logged the only points of the first period with two for a takedown. He scored another point for an escape in the second period. Esparza scored his only point of the match in the third period for an escape. Mora scored three more points in the final period, two for another takedown and one for advantage time.

Esparza was out for part of the year with a neck injury, Mustang assistant coach Matt Azevedo noted.

see Pac-10, page 7

SPRING "T" WRESTLING HOSTED THE PAC-10 TOURNAMENT, FINISHING ONE POINT BEHIND UC DAVIS. SEVEN MUSTANG WRESTLERS FINISHED IN THE TOP FIVE IN THEIR WEIGHT CLASSES.

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