Comparative ethnic studies expands major horizons next Fall

James Mellor
MUSTANG DAILY

As of Fall 2006, 'comparative ethnic studies' will be a new major offered at Cal Poly within the College of Liberal Arts.

The new major will give Cal Poly students the opportunity to study the historical development and social significance of race and ethnicity in the United States.

"The hope is that indigenous studies will go beyond the traditional Native American studies to compare the experiences and histories of indigenous people around the world," said Charise Cheney, the ethnic studies department chair.

"This is the case for all of the traditional areas of ethnic studies, which is why the new major is so exciting," she said. "We're not looking at it in the traditional way of studying African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans or Latinos. Now, we're taking a much more global approach to those people and their experiences in the United States." An ethnic studies minor has been offered since 1994, when the program that started in 1992 became a department. Although the idea for the department was always to move toward having a major, several budget crunches made this not feasible, College of Liberal Arts Dean Linda Halisky said.

The new program is a part of the 2005-2006 University Strategic Plan. The 3-year planning process will help guide the College of Liberal Arts and the University as it moves toward a new Strategic Plan for the next 3 years.

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Agriculture enterprises plant the seed a career growing experience

Tonya Strickland
MUSTANG DAILY

In bringing students one step closer to the real world of production aided with the cushion of a fiscal safety net, Cal Poly Foundation funds agricultural enterprise projects that compensate invests profit in the program.

If an enterprise loses money, the department conducting the project absorbs the loss, making it a "financially, risk-free opportunity" that can provide students with fundamental skills in management, marketing, packaging and labor, according to the College of Agriculture enterprise booklet.

Resources for more than 40 enterprises are supplied to many agriculture student workers in departments such as horticulture and crop science, food science and nutrition and animal science that range from such endeavors as cultivating poinsettias at the Poly Plant Shop, full production and packaging of Cal Poly Eggs and supplying the community with veggies.
Major

continued from page 1

the existing minor program and reshapes the curriculum, which will add 11 new classes, but only one additional faculty member.

As the curriculum is reshaped, the former cultural images series will be removed, which was a comparative study of the cultural representations and counter-representations by American racial/ethnic groups in U.S. popular opinion and consciousness.

Replacing this series will be 200 level survey courses that will serve as introductory courses to specific racial/ethnic groups and their cultural institutions.

The extra classes will now give ethnic studies professors a chance to explore experimental methods of tea-bing their courses within the program.

There is more room in the curriculum now for the creation of topical courses . . . (which) gives faculty members an opportunity to teach courses that are not in the curriculum, but are in particular interest to that faculty person,” Cheney said.

“The major also creates opportunity for (professors), as well as for the students, to explore more in depth issues pertaining to our discipline,” she said.

Although the new major will cause her more work, Cheney said she is excited about the addition of comparative ethnic studies as a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

“I look forward to this opportunity to play an instrumental role in the direction of what really is a historical moment at Cal Poly,” she said.

“It definitely can be a little overwhelming,” she said. “But I invite the challenge of implementing the curriculum, and in recruiting students in to the major and to get students more excited about the major.”

Plants

continued from page 1

Such projects are valuable for students seeking industry "know-how" because the projects provide opportunities without financial burdens, Jennifer Fox, head of horticulture and crop science department said.

"There is the possibility of a nice upside, if they work on an effective and profitable project," she said.

In 2001, two students worked 915 hours in biosolids production and shared approximately $11,000 in profits, according to The Foundation Annual Report from that year.

Poly Plant Shop generated $654,500 in gross revenue in the 2004-2005 fiscal year, said Sharon Dobson, shop advisor and Cal Poly lecturer. Revenue either goes directly to back students involved with enterprise projects, minus project expenses or to cover labor and supplies.

"Poly Plant Shop operates on a break-even basis," she said.

Not only are student employees financially supported while working on an Enterprise Project, they also work in close contact with faculty and staff in the growing and marketing of a product,” Fox said. They also learn how to select, market and sell their product, Fox said.

Several members of the club already began setting the packs on campus in the University Union Plaza from 7 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and will continue today, Nov. 28 and Dec. 1.

"Without these projects students outside of agriculture may never have the opportunity in an educational setting while at Cal Poly," she said.

Trade

continued from page 1

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AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — the country's first anti-terror spe-
details emerged about the 35-
the U.S. toll from three.
Tuesday and said it was drafting
hotel bombings.
measures aimed at foreigners
those killed in the attacks, raising
saying she had three brothers
four Americans were among
The U.S. Embassy also said
attacks like last week's the triple
Jordan introduced strict security
specific legislation to prevent further
in her bid to blow herself up in
killed by U.S. forces.
an Amman hotel, with friends
The moves came as more
year-old Iraqi woman who failed
an unannounced visits to 20
Sacramento-area restaurants and
found 16 to be in violatuin of
minimum wage rules.
The 16 restaurants were fined
a total of $193,350, mostly for
violations. The fines can be appealed.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Samuel
Alito distanced himself Tuesday from his 1985 comments that
there was no constitutional right to abortion, telling a senator in
private that he had been "an advi-
cater seeking a job." Sen. Diane
Feinstein, D-Calif., an abortion
rights supporter and the only
woman on the Senate Judiciary
Committee, said she asked the
conservative judge about a discu-
sion he held Monday showing
Alito in 1985 telling the Reagan
administration he was particularly
proud to help argue that "the
Constitution does not protect a
right to an abortion."

Feds agree to list Puget Sound
orcas as endangered species
Gene Johnson
ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEATTLE — The federal gov-
ernment on Tuesday listed Puget
Sound orcas as an endangered
species, rather than a threatened
one as it proposed last year.
"Between the time we proposed
to list those animals as threatened
and now, we've discovered the pop-
ulation is in a more delicate situa-
tion than we had assumed," said
Brian Gorman, a spokesman for the
National Marine Fisheries Service.
The three pods of orcas that live
in Puget Sound each summer
number 89 whales — down from
its historical levels in the middle of
last century, but up from a low of
79 in 2002.
Previously, they were protected
under the Marine Mammal
Protection Act, which kept them
from being killed or harassed. The
new listing under the Endangered
Species Act will require federal
agencies to make sure their activi-
ties do not harm the whales and
will provide better protection
against the factors contributing to
their decline, including pollution
and a loss of prey, namely salmon.
Eight environmental groups
sued in December 2002 over the
government's refusal to list the
species.
The environmental groups
argued that Puget Sound orcas have
a different diet and features from
other orcas, don't mate outside their
family structure, and that they are
also different in showing such an
attachment to one geographic
region, and a federal judge ordered
the fisheries service to reconsider.
In response, the agency suggested
listing the orcas as threatened, a list-
ing that would afford the whales all
the protections of the Endangered
Species Act. Upon further review,
and at the request of environmen-
talists, the fisheries service decided
the "endangered" listing was more
appropriate.
"Threatened" reflects a species at
risk of becoming extinct. There is
little, if any, difference in protection
provided under each listing; it's sim-
ply a reflection of the peril faced by
the species.
"If I were a killer whale, I would-
't notice any difference," Gorman
said.
Patti Goldman, a managing
attorney with Earthjustice in
Seattle, said the "endangered" listing
might help environmental groups
win more money from the federal
government to protect the orcas.
Justin Pope
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — For decades, getting more students into college has been the top priority of America's higher education leaders. What's the point, a growing number of experts are wondering, when so few who go to school finish a degree?

Just 54 percent of students entering four-year colleges in 1997 had a degree six years later, according to some of the latest government figures. After borrowing for school but failing to graduate, many of those students may be worse off than if they had never attended college at all.

Now the question of what to do about the country's unimpressive and stagnant graduation rates is on the agenda, from college presidents' offices to state houses. The latest sign of the trend comes Wednesday, when former Princeton President William Bowen lays out an ambitious research agenda on the question.

His data-driven studies on college access for the poor have all varied universities. In an interview, he described the message he will give them: "If you find that the odds of getting through are very different for different groups of people, that's something you ought to be concerned about."

It's known that elite schools have generally higher graduation rates than non-elite schools. What's less clear is why the graduation rates at seemingly similar colleges vary so much. The main campuses of Penn State and the University of Minnesota have comparable price tags, student SAT scores, and percentage of students from poor backgrounds. Penn State graduates more than 80 percent of its students, and Minnesota barely half.

The federal figures report 57 percent of white students finish their degree, compared with 44 percent for blacks. A 2004 Education Trust report found a quarter of schools have gaps in graduation rates of blacks or 20 points or more. Traditionally, experts say, blame has fallen on high schools, or on the students themselves.

"You walk into a high school and 50 percent of the kids aren't graduating, people say 'What's the matter with this place? Get the principal. Get me the school board. Let's put this place in receivership,'" said Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. "But people walk into (a college) and say 'What's the matter with these students? We gave them a chance to go to college.'"

While student responsibility is a factor, "an awful lot of institutions just assumed that getting them in the door was the most important thing," said Kati Haycock, director of The Education Trust.

Now both Haycock and Callan say there are signs that is changing. Graduation rates are on the agenda of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings' new national commission on higher education. There is growing research on how colleges can get students more involved in campus life, which makes them more likely to stay enrolled. And Callan says some state legislatures, even in the face of pressure to increase capacity, are exploring budget incentives for schools to improve graduation rates, not just increase enrollment.

"But you have to do it carefully, because if you put all the incentives on completion then you just encourage colleges to cherry pick the population of students most likely to graduate," Callan said. "There's already too much of that."

Sarah Turner, a University of Virginia education economist, has assembled data showing graduation rates have stagnated over recent decades even as enrollment has climbed. Explanations range from rising college costs to insufficient academic support to students simply not realizing how valuable a college degree is.

Which factors matter most, and how they overlap, is not well understood, largely because the topic is hard to measure. Tracking enrollment numbers is relatively easy, but tracking what happens to individual students over six years is much harder.

Samener N. Yacoub
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In another setback to the Saddam Hussein case, a defense lawyer who was wounded in an ambush that killed one of his colleagues said Tuesday he had fled Iraq and was seeking asylum in the Gulf state of Qatar.

Thamir Al-Khuzai, one of Saddam's seven co-defendants in the trial, which is scheduled to resume on Nov. 28, said on condition that his current location outside Iraq not be reported that he was only a lawyer who practiced his profession in Iraq. Yet he was subjected to an assassination attempt and to danger that might have even touched his family, Al-Khuzai told The Associated Press in an interview.

"If you find that the odds of getting through are very different for different groups of people, that's something you ought to be concerned about."

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Snoop Dogg to attend anti-execution rally

Kim Curtis
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Rapper Snoop Dogg will attend a rally Saturday outside San Quentin State Prison to support a former gang leader scheduled to be executed next month, according to an advocacy group.

The former Crips member turned musician will be among thousands expected to protest the Dec. 13 execution of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, who was sentenced to death in 1991 for killing four people in two Los Angeles robberies.

"We were unable to provide him with a security clearance because of his arrest history," he said. Before turning to music, Snoop Dogg spent time in prison for drug-related offenses. In 1993, he faced changes in connection with a drive-by shooting but was later cleared.

During his years on death row, Williams has earned international acclaim for his children's books urging kids to stay out of gangs, among other peace-preaching efforts.

An award-winning cable television movie about Williams' life, "Redemption: The Stan 'Tookie' Williams Story," starring Jamie Foxx, also drew attention to his case.

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‘Get Rich’ out-raps low expectations

Alex Switzer
IOWA STATE DAILY (IOWA STATE U.)

AMES, Iowa — Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, one of the most popular stars in hip-hop, makes his motion picture debut as an orphaned street kid who makes his mark in the drug trade. He finally dares to leave the violence behind and become the rap artist he was meant to be in "Get Rich or Die Tryin'." The new film from six-time Oscar nominee Jim Sheridan.

"Violence only begets more violence." Such is the lesson learned on the gangland streets where families are killed for money and people's lives are destroyed by drugs. 50 Cent attempts to legitimize his gangsta-rapper persona in his new semi-autobiographical film, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'."

Marcus, the theatrical face of 50 Cent, goes from impoverished schoolboy to ruthless drug dealer right before our eyes in this loose adaptation of 50% life. After his mother is killed by Majestic, a drug kingpin, Marcus hits the streets hard to make money and hopefully one day nail down a record contract. When he gets caught with drugs, he goes to prison and meets his future manager, Bama, played by Terrence Howard, and begins a musical career, much to the chagrin of Majestic.

The most common comparison made to this movie is Eminem's "8 Mile," but any similarity ends after the stories' real-life-rapper origins.

It's slightly creepy to say the movie makes 50 Cent "seem more human," yet it brings to light a more fragile side to the seemingly indestructible rapper. After being shot nine times out of retribution for mugging a group of Cubans, 50 Cent attempts to show his physical and emotional struggles involved in the healing process. The most common comparison made to this movie is Eminem's "8 Mile," but any similarity ends after the stories' real-life-rapper origins.

"Get Rich or Die Tryin'" is currently in theaters. It's slightly cheesy to say the movie makes 50 Cent "seem more human," yet it brings to light a more fragile side to the seemingly indestructible rapper. After being shot nine times out of retribution for mugging a group of Cubans, 50 Cent attempts to show his physical and emotional struggles involved in the healing process. The most common comparison made to this movie is Eminem's "8 Mile," but any similarity ends after the stories' real-life-rapper origins.

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The market is becoming increasingly saturated with sequels, a double-edged sword for the video game industry. Sequels allow developers to flesh out gaming worlds, giving players new information about a franchise's culture. To keep a franchise alive and growing, there must be signs of constant innovation, as well as remaining true to what made the original appealing to gamers. "Resident Evil 4," which made a huge departure from the established norm, doing away with the standard villain archetype and introducing several new plot points to the overall continuum. Developer Capcom also kept the franchise fresh by updating the gameplay mechanics. Unlike the previous versions of "Resident Evil," this game utilizes a new camera and aiming system. The new camera made the gamers more personal, as the player could direct scenes and characters from the screen. Seem more human," yet it brings to light a more fragile side to the seemingly indestructible rapper. After being shot nine times out of retribution for mugging a group of Cubans, 50 Cent attempts to show his physical and emotional struggles involved in the healing process. The most common comparison made to this movie is Eminem's "8 Mile," but any similarity ends after the stories' real-life-rapper origins.
Sequels

'South of Heaven' is supposed to be the re-imagining of the franchise. Featuring a darker, edgier Croft, the game was taken as a whole is respectable and modestly well-acted. For a seemingly all-gangster, sex-and-drugs rapper, it affects your whole outlook on things. You’re not the main priority in your life anymore. Your whole perspective changes — your perspective on your parents, yourself, everyone you meet who’s been through this kind of event before. It depends on the tone of the music — that comes first. Usually I start to play and go from there. But I’m not a confessional kind of writer, not like diary entries or So I try to make a little story for each one. It depends on what’s going on in little situation, (laughs) It’s kinda hard.

50 Cent

Almost seems like the film’s creators were depending on his real, public life to fill any gaps the movie may have overlooked. Despite these problems, the film as a whole is respectable and moderately well-acted. For a seemingly all-gangster, sex-and-drugs rapper, 50’s diversity as an actor was surprising. He shows a wide spectrum of emotions, even though he had about as many lines as Arnold Schwarzenegger in “The Terminator.” Don’t get it wrong, though; a lot of the music — I try to write every day. So when that “Woman King” song came around, I sorta realized I had a bunch of songs with woman characters, either referential or made-up. So it made sense to put them all together. But they’re just characters I’m interested in as far as the Biblical characters, you have dichotic characters that you try to revisit and put a different human aspect to.

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City considers regulating pot clubs with background checks and fees

Lisa Leff
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Supervisors were set to vote Tuesday on regulations that would govern medical marijuana clubs after allegations of abuse at several of the city's 35 facilities.

The proposed rules, crafted with input from Mayor Gavin Newsom and after months of debate, would require pot dispensary operators for the first time to apply for permits that include criminal and employment background checks. Club owners would have to pay $6,610 for a permit in addition to the $3,100 for a business license.

The regulations also would govern where and how the clubs could do business, prohibiting them from opening in industrial or residential areas. The zoning guidelines would prevent dispensaries from operating within 500 feet of schools or within 1,000 feet if pot-smoking is allowed on the premises.

The crackdown comes as elected officials in this liberal city grapple with the logistical realities of an unregulated industry that deals in a federally illegal product.

Medical marijuana became legal in California after voters approved the Compassionate Use Act in 1996. In June, however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that medical marijuana patients could be prosecuted for illegal pot possession under federal law, regardless of state ordinances.

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Even before the Supreme Court ruling, local officials here were wrestling with how to regulate the proliferating clubs. Mayor Newsom and Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, a member of the Green Party, paired up to address the problem after it was revealed that a dispensary was about to open in a city-operated residential hotel for substance abusers.

At the time, San Francisco was home to an estimated 40 dispensaries, more by far than any other California city. Since the state's voters adopted the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has issued identification cards to nearly 8,000 people who claimed they needed the drug to ease symptoms for afflictions ranging from AIDS to arthritis.

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Rumsfeld quotes Clinton officials in justifying decision to invade Iraq

Robert Burns

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Tuesday joined the Bush administration's attack on Iraq war critics, quoting Clinton administration officials who contended in the late 1990s that former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was a security threat to the United States and its allies.

At a Pentagon news conference, Rumsfeld noted that Congress in 1998 passed the Iraq Liberation Act, making it U.S. government policy to support efforts to remove the Saddam regime from power. He noted that President Bill Clinton ordered four days of bombing in December 1998.

President Bush on Monday hurled back at Democratic critics the warning they once expressed that Saddam was a grave threat. "They spoke the truth then and they're speaking politics now," Bush charged.

Rumsfeld continued Bush's assault on war critics, citing the words of Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser.

Rumsfeld quoted Berger as having said of Saddam in 1998, "He will rebuild his arsenal of weapons that we dismantled, manipulate and withhold some prewar intelligence and mislead Americans about the reality of weapons of mass destruction." Berger also said that Saddam would "outlast us," Rumsfeld said.

The Republican-controlled Senate defeated, on a 58-40 vote, a Democratic effort to pressure Bush on Iraq. It then overwhelmingly endorsed a weaker, non-binding statement calling on the administration to explain its Iraq policy and declaring that 2006 "should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty."

Iraq and a host of other problems, from the bungled response to Hurricane Katrina to the indictments of a senior White House official in the CIA leak investigation, have taken a heavy toll on Bush.

While noting that many Republicans want to know when U.S. troops will leave Iraq, Rumsfeld said it would be a grave mistake to leave prematurely.

Referring to the current situation, Rumsfeld said, "We are in the midst of a war that threatens free people across the world," as evidenced by terrorist attacks in the United States, London, Madrid and other cities. He said the world must face up to the "dark vision" of a network of "Islamo-fascists" and extremists.

"They seek to build in Iraq what they once had in Afghanistan — a safe haven," he said. "And then to expand throughout the region and beyond."

While noting that many Americans want to know when U.S. troops will leave Iraq, Rumsfeld said it would be a grave mistake to leave prematurely.

"We must be careful not to give terrorists the false hope that if they can simply hold on long enough, they can outlast us," Rumsfeld said.

There are about 160,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

Antitrust

continued from page 5

all," the vigorous, fast-talking Chavez said as she sat on an upturned Coke crate outside her shop.

"Tell them, what are you good for? What purpose do you serve?" she said. "Are you here to protect Coke, or to defend us?"

They finally accepted her complaint, investigated it, and found evidence of similar incidents — some documented by Big Cola, which later joined the case. Two years later, on July 4, the commission ruled in a closed-door session that 15 Coke bottlers had violated anti-monopoly laws in the case, and fined them about $15 million.

"I was sure we would lose, because in Mexico for so long, people got away with anything," Chavez said.

Just a few weeks later, on August 12, a similar case that had been held up in hearings for years was suddenly resolved — again, with a ruling against Coke, this time against 54 distributors who were ordered to pay about $1 million (euro 860,000) each, the maximum fine allowed.

A copy of one of the rulings obtained by The Associated Press showed that some Coke distributors had threatened to remove company-supplied refrigerators and displays from shops that sold other brands.

They also allegedly shifted competitors' merchandise away from prime locations in some stores, bought it all up and dumped it, or offered Coke merchandise in return for not selling the other brands.

Alfredo Parada, the communications director for Big Cola's parent company, Agemes, credits the rulings with "giving us a sense of reassurance... that these small business owners will no longer be subject to intimidation."

Chavez won't get any of the money — the fines go to the government — though her victory didn't come cheap.

For three months, she lost all her Coke deliveries. "I thought we were going to go out of business," she said.

Chavez was forced to buy Coke from wholesale centers and lug home dozens of cases in her 1979 Dodge Dart. "My husband just watched me," she said, adding that he was angry with her for taking on such an impossible battle.

Things have changed since those dark days.

Her husband now waits on customers as Chavez proudly shows off her court papers. Almost on cue, a bright red Coke truck pulls up and smiling, courteous Coke employees unload Chavez's twice-weekly delivery. They say she's a good customer.


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Alternative transportation solves parking issue

Unfortunately a significant number of people who live within a mile of campus still feel the need to drive. This would be a fifteen minute walk, ten minute bike ride and five minute bike ride. Even though it’s only a three to five minute drive, it takes nearly ten minutes or more to find parking! Obviously time is not the deciding factor.

It’s definitely not cheaper to drive either. Quarterly parking permits cost $85 and it is $4 for a daily permit. In addition, if you drive every day, it is probably nearly $10 each week in gas, in addition to the maintenance costs. If you risk parking without a permit, in student parking or let a meter expire, you could face a $15 to $25 ticket. Driving is absolutely the most expensive way to get to class for not only needed, but necessary options.

Riding the bus is also free, another effective way of getting to class for those who need to walk or use a wheelchair. A card issued by the Handicapped Authority is in effect, allowing one to ride the bus free.

Bike parking is free, although it may take while to find an open rack. The only cost is having a $3 tube every month or so if you hit a patch of glass. The biggest complaint about biking to school is getting to class tired and sweaty. This is not only needed, but necessary.

Everyone has the right to be wrong.

I would like to address your claim that the “hate” that I have expressed is not productive. It is a simple fact that the only productive hate that I have expressed was hate of a personal attack. It is my opinion that this is irresponsible editorial journalism. Commentaries are meant to breed discussion and raise other opinions; and that’s what they should be expected to do. Everyone is free to agree with your fact, in all will stand up against you. As a column it is something you should get used to. To use the power of journalism to attack and disparage others with words and sarcastic phrases is in a column changes the whole dialogue from thought-provoking commentary to petty and injurious rancor. Please, leave paltry grudges out of the commentaries; put them in the letters section, where they most often appear anyway.

Justin Giguere
Business administration senior

The next time you ascend your Soap-Box, please use all your deep understanding of international relations and explain how one would better support counter-terrorism, but I digress.
Frankly
continued from page 12
as an unranked team 42-10 and has just one win against a team in the top 25," for what it's worth, the Mustangs have three wins against top 25 teams.

The bottom line is the Mustangs will overcome their fair share of adversity and, assuming they win on Saturday, deserve to be in the playoffs.

As the sports editor, a Cal Poly student and an athlete, I encourage all Poly students to check out the home games this weekend — there are plenty of good ones to choose from. The wrestling team opens its season with an intrasquad meet on Thursday, the football team plays on Saturday, and the volleyball team is fighting for their playoff lives on Saturday.

Fencing
continued from page 12
In honor of the all-time greats, "Batten" said of the coaches and more experienced students who helped him. "It takes patience and dedication, but anyone can do it." Competitions are sometimes geared toward beginners.

The tournament on campus included an event specifically for novice fencers, meaning anyone with less than one-year experience could compete in their own division.

For those interested:

The club is open to all Cal Poly students and men and women compete against each other.

Instructional meetings are currently scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. in Mont Gym and bouting (practice fencing) is held on Saturdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For more information visit the Cal Poly fencing Web site at www.fencing.calpoly.edu.
**SPORTS**

**Volleyball playoff hopes at stake**

Tiffany Dias

MUSTANG DAILY

Although the Cal Poly women’s volleyball team was defeated by the Pacific in four games on Saturday, ending a five-match winning streak against the Tigers, their season is not yet at its end.

The Mustangs finished at the Big West Conference with a 10-4, putting the team in third place and possibly giving them a chance to compete at the NCAA National Championship Tournament in December.

“We are the best, biggest turn around story in the country. Last year, the team was 5-25, now we’re hoping to go to Nationals,” coach Jon Stevenson said.

The Mustangs played hard against the Tigers, a team which Stevenson described as “a really strong team.”

Last week’s loss also brings the Mustangs to a notable 18-6 record and caused the team to team harder for the last game of the season to host UC Davis this Saturday.

The loss dropped Cal Poly’s record to 18-6 over all and motivated the team for the upcoming game against Davis.

“While it’s been no picnic this season, we’ve worked hard to make it this far,” Stevenson said. “I anticipate that we will win the game this weekend.”

A win against the UC Davis while not a deciding factor for the championships, is still important for the Mustangs because the NCAA selection committee, who decides which teams will compete at the championship, would likely frown upon a loss to the 4-23 Aggies.

Sophomore setter Chelsea Hayes, predicts the team will lay the Aggies down and remains optimistic of their chances at the qualifying tournament.

“We’re a superior team to Davis. It’s just a matter of how we execute and dominate the game,” Hayes said.

At Nationals, the Mustang’s level competition in the first round would depend on their seed, which could vary depending on how the selection committee interprets the team’s lax pre-season schedule.

The team did have significant wins against UC Santa Barbara and Long Beach State.

“I hope we get a good draw at the tournament. It’s a little nerve racking during practice to not know for sure, but anything could happen,” Hayes echoed.

Senior outside hitter and team captain, Vanessa Gilliam, is hoping to put the Aggies down in straight sets.

Senior Kayla Mulder was named to the Academic All-College Sports Information Directors within the District VIII area voted on the team.

Her all-around game includes 2.44 digs, 0.88 blocks and 17 service aces.

Hayes on the team’s NCAA tournament chances:

“We’ve been training all year with that goal in our minds. We know what’s on the line and have tried our hardest to make it,” said setter Chelsea Hayes.

Hayes on “Right now, the potential compere: Washington and title at the NCAA tournament: “While I’m not saying we’re not thinking about the NCAA tournament (at the tournament), we hope that we will have that problem in the first place.”

Stevenson on the who Cal Poly could face in the NCAA tournament:

“While I’m not saying we’re not thinking about the NCAA tournament, we hope that we will have that problem in the first place.”

Muller named a district All-Academic

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Senior Kayla Mulder was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District First Team in District VIII, announced today. Mulder is one of five student-athletes from the Big West to be named to an All-District team, and will now be added to the Academic All-America ballot.

District VIII is comprised of the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and British Columbia. Players selected represent the best in each of the states.

Kayla Mulder is an outside hitter for the Mustangs and is third on the team in kills per game. Mulder is a native of Ripon, Calif.

West Coast, Western Athletic, Mountain West and the Big Sky Conference.

College Sports Information Directors within the District VIII area voted on the team.

Mulder, a kinesiology major at Cal Poly, is third on the team with a average 3.00 kills per game.

Her all-around game includes 2.44 digs, 0.88 blocks and 17 service aces.

So far, Cal Poly, 18-6 overall and 10-4 in the Big West, concludes the regular season with its final home match on Saturday at 7 p.m. against non-conference UC Davis.

Hayes on the Mustang’s N.C.A.A. Tournament chances:

“We’ve been training all year with that goal in our minds. We know what’s on the line and have tried our hardest to make it,” said setter Chelsea Hayes.

Hayes on “Right now, the potential compere: Washington and title at the NCAA tournament: “While I’m not saying we’re not thinking about the NCAA tournament, we hope that we will have that problem in the first place.”

Stevenson on the who Cal Poly could face in the NCAA tournament:

“While I’m not saying we’re not thinking about the NCAA tournament, we hope that we will have that problem in the first place.”

Frankly Speaking

First off, congratulations to Matt Johnson, the Mustangs for the NCAA Cross Country Championships by finishing 17th at the West Regional meet over the weekend. It’s truly an accomplishment to compete at a national championship.

Honestly, I think Matt and the entire cross-country team deserves props just for competing in their sport. I mean honestly, who runs a five mile race in the fall? It’s a long way to go for just one race.

Craziness, pure craziness.

The West Regional meet was no time to get to business. A couple weeks back I said the football team had to rededicate the themselves and figure out how to win with freshman quarterback Matt Brennan in the lineup.

I, for one, didn’t think they had a shot at winning out and making the playoffs. I didn’t see the game at UC Davis, but the stars were deparaging to say the least. Cal Poly had a paltry 113 yards of total offense that day.

Just to compare and contrast, James Noble, the Mustangs starting running back, averages 117 rushing yards per game.

But here we are; two weeks later and the Mustangs are back on track for a playoff birth. A win on Saturday all but guarantees an at-large birth to the playoffs.

There’s no way the selection committee can snub Cal Poly this year.

For those unaware of Cal Poly’s remarkable turnaround, here’s how the end of the season played out.

The team was on top of all the best in school history. Seven wins without a loss, then tragedy struck in the form of a last minute loss to rival UC Davis at Mustang Stadium.

Still from seeing certain victory snatched away and seeing certain victory snatched away, the Mustangs traveled to Eastern Washington and got their asses kicked, to put it bluntly. They lost 38-21 and watched their playoff hopes slip away.

Despite winning its remaining games by wide margins (31-0 over Northern Colorado and 58-13 at Sacramento State), Cal Poly was left out of the playoffs by the selection committee.

Should the Mustangs beat Idaho State on Saturday, anything less than a playoff birth would be crazy.

Even though the national polls are a joke (The No. 1 team lost to

see Frankly, page 11