In addition to Associated Students Inc. presidential elections, students will vote on Board of Directors candidates on Wednesday and Thursday.

Each college has several representatives on the board that represent the college's interests within ASI. Students only vote for representatives from their own college. Elections are through each student's My Cal Poly portal and electronic polls are open from 7 a.m. Wednesday to 7 p.m. Thursday.

The following directory offers a brief description of each candidate and his or her qualifications.

College of Business

Joe Jurkovich
business administration junior

Jurkovich decided to run for the position after talking to current board members. "I'm personable and driven," Jurkovich said. "I really enjoy getting things done."

As a board member, Jurkovich said his main priority would be to give back to Cal Poly in his last year and making the day to day easier for all of the students in the OCB.

Megan Cleary
business junior

Cleary has been on the executive board for the American Marketing Association chapter at Cal Poly for two years and a member for three. She also holds a junior executive position for the sorority, Alpha Chi Omega. Last year Cleary was also involved with a direct study abroad exchange through OCB and co-represented Cal Poly in France.

Cleary's biggest priority would be being able to make all planning and decision making transparent to the student body of the OCB.

"I think the most important thing is to be communicative to ASI from the students and to the students from ASI," Cleary said.

Nicole Varvitiotes
business freshman

Varvitiotes has been active in student government in high school as well as a head coach for her swim team. Varvitiotes wants to dive into the ASI distribution of possible money from College of Business and board smoother next year. Schwartz would like to make counseling more available to students as well as help them explore different minor opportunities.

Another main focus of hers would be to make the study abroad program more accessible to students through the OCB.

Jesse Schwartz
business junior

Schwartz is currently on the board of directors. He has also served as the Treasurer, Fundraising Chairman, Historian and Fall Collection Ambassador for Delta Chi. He has recently been appointed as the director of finances for the Annual International Career Conference and is a member of the AMA.

He aims to be an active listener and make the communication process between student and board smoother next year. Schwartz would like to institute a monthly newsletter to his college in order to be as transparent as possible to the students of the OCB.

"I encourage students to come up and talk to me about anything," he said.

Could not be reached:

Jessica Cooper
business sophomore

Based Fees.

"I'm balanced," she said. "I'm willing to listen and act accordingly."

Jamie Callahan
international business junior

Callahan is currently the secretary for the business council and the vice president of membership for AMA at Cal Poly. She is also already been apart of ASI and worked for the Recreation Center on campus.

She would like to focus efforts on improving degree progress for students. Callahan would like to like to make counseling more available to students as well as help them explore different minor opportunities.

Another main focus of her's would be to make the study abroad program more accessible to students through the OCB.

Daniele Tucker
social sciences junior

Tucker was a part of her high school government for four years including as Associated Student Body treasurer. "I want to represent the students of the CLA and improve Cal Poly during my last year."

Tucker feels the need to improve clarity and communication within board of directors. "I'm not afraid to voice opinions and approach topics that some may not want to," she said.

Outsider has been on the campus but is an outsider to the business college. Tucker is currently a Poly Rep, a college of liberal arts ambassador and vice president of the Cal Poly English club.

Babek's platform includes making the CLA more visible. "Being a polytechnic university I feel that often times liberal arts is underscored whereas it's one of the biggest colleges on campus." Babek believes that it's important for students to have a voice especially with the CBFs still being in question.

Joe Ciesinski
communications senior

Ciesinski is running for board of directors in hopes of putting his previous experience at Cal Poly to a greater role. Last year he was president of the communication studies club. This year he is currently the CLA representative and vice-chair on the University Union Advisory Board. His main priority is to be an outlet for all students "I want to bring more visibility to our college and also want to be seen as a resource for any student out there ... and represent our college in a whole new way."

see Board of Directors, page 2
Jessica Patton
education senior
Patton is currently on the CLA board of directors and in her fourth year. She is working toward her teaching credential and has been involved with Greek life on campus as well as with the Associated Students and leadership positions. Patton is currently working with the CLA and is very excited about working toward her future goals. Patton said she wants to look into lowering textbook prices and making the student outreach program more effective.

James Choi
construction management junior
Choi has been involved in many clubs including his position as group coordinator and vice-president of Asian American Christian Fellowship Club on campus. Choi wants to improve the communication between the government and the student body. "I want to bridge that gap between the student government and fellow students," he said. "Something that’s really important for me is having good relations with fellow peers and students and being able to use that in trying to make the best decisions for our college.

Kaitlin Spak
biochemistry and microbiology junior
Spak is currently serving on the ASI Board of Directors and serves as a representative for Biomedical Engineering. Spak has been in ASI for two years and states that she has been a part of the Cal Poly Flash Mobs. She says has taught him to budget his time effectively. If the fee increase passes, he wants to make sure that extra money is put to good use.

Kelsey Rugani
agricultural business senior
Rugani is currently on the executive cabinet for the associated students as the sustainability officer. Also vice-president of the Empower Cal Poly Coalition, Rugani wants to focus his efforts to make the campus more green. He is presently trying to secure green initiatives in order for his college. Rugani says has taught him to budget his time effectively. If the fee increase passes, he wants to make sure that the extra money is put to good use.

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Chris DeKaan
construction management junior
DeHaan has been a part of numerous clubs on campus including his position as president of the Cal Poly national association of Home Builders where he led the team to a third place finish in international builders exposition this past January in Las Vegas. DeHaan thinks that his numerous ventures into different clubs involving the CAEB gives him an advantage of interconnectivity that other candidates don’t have. "I want to use my last year to give back and represent the students," DeHaan said. "I want to use my last year to give back and represent the students."

Garrett Offerman
biomedical engineering sophomore
Offerman is currently serving on the ASI Board of Directors and serves as a representative for Biomedical Engineering. Offerman says he enjoys taking on leadership positions and understands organization is key, as he has applied since freshman year. Over the past quarter, he has been employed in addition to school, which he says taught him to budget his time wisely. "I want every engineer to be able to voice their opinions and want to represent the engineering student body," he said.

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Caroline Santillian
city and regional planning senior
Santillian is a part of Associated Students in Planning and currently serves as an officer. A self-characterized hard worker, Santillian wants to serve as a direct link for students to access their government. Santillian wants to prioritize college funding and student representation. "Considering the current state of the economy it’s pretty self-evident why (funding) is an issue," Santillian said. "It’s a lot of sustainability projects that can come out of there.

Justin Leveque
city and regional planning junior
Leveque is currently on the executive cabinet for the associated students as the sustainability officer. Also vice-president of the Empower Cal Poly Coalition, Leveque wants to focus his efforts to make the campus more green. He is presently trying to secure green initiatives in order for his college. Leveque wants to improve the visibility of his college as well as the rest of the colleges at Cal Poly.

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Briefs

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lori Drew, a Missouri mother embroiled in a MySpace hoax on a 13-year-old neighbor girl who committed suicide, should be given probation and fined $3,000 after being convicted of three misdemeanor counts, court documents state.

Drew’s attorney Dean Steward said in court documents filed Sunday that probation officials recommended Drew be placed on one-year probation.

Drew could face up to three years in prison and a $300,000 fine after being convicted in November of three misdemeanor counts of accusation of making false claims to authorities that she was bound with tape and held at gunpoint by a man she met through the Craigslist classified advertising Web site.

The warrant accuses Philip Markoff of assault and weapons violations. Authorities had previously said Markoff was the suspect in the April 16 robbery attempt at a Holiday Inn Express in Warwick.

A Las Vegas stripper who offered lap dances told Rhode Island authorities that she was bound with cord and held at gunpoint by a man she met through the Craigslist classified advertising Web site.

DILLON, S.C. (AP) — Students who had grown resigned to “nasty” furnishings at their dilapidated middle school were elated Monday after finding new furniture and a freshly painted cafeteria, thanks to a student’s plea, a president’s speech and a businesswoman’s response.

“I was amazed. They changed the whole thing,” said J.V. Martin junior High eighth-grader Jessica Manning, 13. “It let me know somebody cares about us.”

In his first address to Congress last February, President Barack Obama read a letter from eighth-grader Ty’Shooma Betha asking for help replacing her run-down school.

National

WARWICK, R.I. (AP) — A medical student jailed in Boston on suspicion of killing a masseuse he met on Craigslist was charged Monday in an arrest warrant with pulling a gun on a stripper in a Rhode Island motel.

The warrant accuses Philip Markoff of assault and weapons violations. Authorities had previously said Markoff was the suspect in the April 16 robbery attempt at a Holiday Inn Express in Warwick.

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International

KABUL, (AP) — President Hamid Karzai chose a powerful warlord accused of rights abuses as one of his vice presidential running mates on Monday, hours before leaving for meetings in Washington with President Barack Obama and Pakistan’s president.

The selection of Mohammad Qasim Fahim, a top commander in the military group Jamiat-e-Islami during Afghanistan’s 1990s civil war, drew immediate criticism from human rights groups.

A 2005 Human Rights Watch report, “Blood-Stained Hands,” found “credible and consistent evidence of widespread and systematic human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law” were committed by Jamiat commanders, including Fahim.

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq’s government Monday ruled out allowing U.S. combat troops to remain in Iraqi cities after the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal, despite concern that Iraqi forces can’t cope with the security challenge following a resurgence of bombings in recent weeks.

Asking U.S. forces to stay in the cities, including volatile Mosul in the north, would be embarrassing for Iraq’s prime minister, who has staked his political future on claims that the country has turned the corner in the war against Sunni and Shiite extremists.

CALL FOR DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Cal Poly chapter of the California Faculty Association (CFA) is seeking nominations from students, faculty and staff for the “Distinguished Educator Award.” The award is given to recognize faculty who are not yet tenured. Tenure track faculty, librarians, coaches and counselors are ineligible for many teaching awards the university presents, yet they deserve recognition for their teaching, professional activities and service to the university.

Criteria: teaching excellence, outstanding professional development, and outstanding service.

Please provide specific examples that support your nomination and include the name of the nominee and department as well as your name and department and contact information.

Nomination Deadline: May 15, 2009

To nominate someone send your nomination through campus mail to

Dorothy Pippin
CFA Office
Building 38-141

or email to
dppipin@calpoly.edu

Award winners will receive $500.00 and a plaque. These awards will be presented at the CFA end of the year barbecue to be held at Cuesta Park during finals week.

Previous award winners are not eligible. The following list of award winners is provided.

Mary Armstrong
Jon Beckett
Cynthia Crother
Vincente Del Rio
Dianne Deturris
Alesha Doan
Lorraine Donegan
Barbara Jackson
Barry Jones
Elsa Medina
Lynn Moody
Jaymie Noland
Tom Disanto
Jodi Jaques
Scott Patton
Dylan Retsek

WORD ON THE STREET

“What stories or issues do you wish were covered more in the Mustang Daily?”

“I think more profiles on cool teachers and staff. Even more on athletes, something like that.”

—Tynan Bodkin, journalism junior

“I'd like to know more about what's going on locally in Santa Maria or in Pismo or something so that students can do other things outside of Cal Poly.”

—Dana Weiner, biology sophomore

“I'd like to see more pictures of me ... I'll probably keep this paper ... you should, too.”

—Matty Ishler, kinesiology senior

Compiled and Photographed by Mikaela Akuna
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JUST VOTE

ASI Elections

VOTE online

May 1, 2-4 p.m.

May 4, 1-4 p.m.

www.asi.calpoly.edu/asi-elections

Presidential Candidates

Jacob Alvarez—College of Liberal Arts
Jon McElroy—College of Engineering
Kelly Griggs—College of Liberal Arts

Board of Director Candidates

College of Architecture and Environmental Design
James Choi
Chris DeHaan
Tyler Hartrich
Justin LeVeque
Lindsey Newman
Donald Nielsen
Ryan Santillan
Monica Valdez

College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
Wes Carlson
Kody Kester
Kelsey Ragani
Benjamin Scott

College of Business
Jamie Callahan
Megan Cleary
Jessica Cooper
Joe Jurkovich
Nicole Varvitsiotis
Soiomon Reda
Jesse Schwartz

College of Liberal Arts
Lauren Babek
Joe Ciesinski
Tricia Rosas
Jayne Scuncio
Danielle Tucker

College of Engineering
Tanner Bennett
Spencer Chin
Lindsey Davison
Marcus Foley
Stephen Grider
Alyssa Habling
Stephen Murphy
Garrett Offerman
Cammie Schlermer
Matt Sedlak
Kaitlin Spak
Matt Teresi
Sean Walker
Robert Welsh

College of Science and Mathematics
Katie Berger
Nick Dindio
Josh Lazarus
Russell Noe
Jessica Patton

Find candidate statements, voter information and more at asi.calpoly.edu/asi-elections

The filing period for ASI elections has officially closed. If you are interested in being a write-in candidate and participating in campaign activities, come to UU212 to register.

Afghan rights chief fears vote fraud against women

Jason Straziuso

BalLOTS of Afghan women in conservative districts are vulnerable to fraud in August's presidential election, the country's top human rights official said Sunday.

The movements of women are severely restricted by tradition in conservative parts of Afghanistan, where it is rare for women to travel outside their villages or even their family compounds. There, male relatives often register the women as voters.

"Two issues are of concern for me. First is that the right of the woman to cast her vote will not be given to her, and the second is that it's possible that there will be serious fraud in the election by this method," Sima Samar, chairwoman of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, told a news conference.

She said women are not able to move freely during the election period and it is rare for women to travel outside their conservative communities to vote.

She said she fears that women will be deprived of their right to vote, leading to a futile election.

"Women do not have the right to vote in Afghanistan," Samar said.

She said women are not able to move freely during the election period and it is rare for women to travel outside their conservative communities to vote.

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Bisexual doesn't equal slutty

You're doin' it wrong!

By Jenna Ray

You do ask me how many women I've dated and how many I've had sex with. You are surprised by how low the number is and probably can name at least one straight woman who has had more lesbian experiences than me. You've confused bisexual with slutty.

You do ask me if I'm allowed to have a boyfriend and a girlfriend at the same time. Ignoring how ridiculous the word "allow" is in this context for the moment, I respond by asking if you are allowed to have two boyfriends or two girlfriends at the same time. You've confused bisexual with polyamorous.

You do make a comment, half-see Bisexual, page 7

Fall' has fluid storytelling, interesting characters

Amanda Kaufman

"Fall" provides a character's head actually worth getting into, someone who can tell the story in an interesting and effective manner without being so blatantly obvious he is the one telling it. Noel, son of an Australian diplomat, attends St. Ebury private school in Ottawa, Canada, as a border student.

He recalls the prelude and climax of the turning point in his life, his senior year in St. Ebury, when his dangerous obsession with his roommate and roommate's girlfriend turns for the worst. What starts out as a coming-of-age story of blossoming friendship between the quiet, shy, Noel and his popular roommate Julian quickly turns the tables and sets the reader for something darker and weaker than predicted.

While "Fall" only shows droves of talented writing, using prose to show the reader something that is commonly observed everyday but shown in a unique view, it is certainly an example of good, solid writing.

The word roll out engagingly, if not playful and constantly changing in style. The sentences are like fine sand, the tighter they are held onto, the more they shift and slip through fine writing.

"Fall" is not like the majority of first-person perspective stories. It's the Tita Togalas and Katy Perrys of the world that have turned bisexuality into a fad. Not for me though. I try to limit my public displays of affection with men and women alike, out of respect and common courtesy for those who would have to watch. But you don't know that. You don't ask.

OK, perhaps we can see me being bisexual. With hair as short as mine, I'd have to be a little bit gay, right? But you don't see what the big deal is. Can't I just focus on my attraction to men and pretend I'm straight amid my homophobic relatives and conservative classmates? If people had any sort of control over whom they fall for, Romeo and Juliet would have died 400 years ago with its author and Stephanie Meyer would be just another unknown housewife in Utah. But when I came out to my family, maybe they were completely supportive. Or maybe it was the last time I spoke to them. You don't know. You don't ask.

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Nicole Winfield
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME (AP) — Director Ron Howard claimed Sunday that the Vatican interfered with efforts to get permits to shoot certain scenes of his "Angels & Demons" religious thriller in Rome — a charge the Vatican said was purely a publicity stunt.

The film, which stars Tom Hanks and is based on the best-selling novel by Dan Brown, has its world premiere Monday in Rome.

"Angels & Demons" combines an ancient secret brotherhood called the Illuminati, a papal conclave and a high-tech weapon threatening to destroy the Vatican.

At a press conference Sunday, Howard said he hadn't sought cooperation from the Vatican based on the opposition he encountered many Catholic leaders.

"When you come to film in Rome, the official statement to you is that the Vatican has no influence," he said. "Everything progressed very smoothly, but unofficially a couple of days before we were to start filming in several of our locations, it was explained to us that through back channels and so forth that the Vatican had exerted some influence."

"Was I surprised? No. Am I a little frustrated at times? Sure," he said.

Nevertheless he said he felt that he was able to preserve the overall "Angels & Demons" experience despite the restrictions by recreating scenes on set. For the Sistine Chapel alone, some 20 members of the production crew — posing as tourists — took photos of all the frescoes, floor mosaics and paintings of the tiny chapel where popes are elected — until they were told to stop, the film's Web site says.

"Angels & Demons" features Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon of "The Da Vinci Code" fame, played by Hanks in the movie. In the film, the Vatican turns to Langdon after the Illuminati kidnap four cardinals considered front-runners to be the next pope, and threaten to kill one an hour and then explode a bomb at the Vatican.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, refused to comment Sunday on Howard's allegations about church interference, saying his charges were purely designed to drum up publicity for the film.

Last summer, Rome's diocese confirmed it had barred producers from filming inside two churches because the movie didn't conform to the church's views.

In addition to Hanks, the film stars Ewan McGregor as the camerlengo, the prelate who takes care of matters dealing with a papal death and runs the Vatican until a new pontiff is elected.

Israel-born actress Ayelet Zurer plays Dr. Vittoria Vetra, a scientist who helps Langdon crack the codes to save the cardinals.

The 2006 film "The Da Vinci Code" took in more than $750 million worldwide. It prompted calls for boycotts by church leaders worldwide with the idea that Jesus married and fathered children and by depicting the conservative Catholic movement, Opus Dei, as a murderous cult.

Reaction from church leaders to "Angels & Demons" has been muted, though one Italian bishop, Monsignor Antonio Rosario Menonna, said Saturday the film was "highly denigrating, defamatory and offensive" to the Catholic Church, the ANSA news agency reported.

At the press conference, Hanks drew laughs when was asked what the toughest stunt was during filming. His answer? Simply running.

"There is not a regular cobblestone; there is not a straight step, there is not an easy way to cross any street in all of the Eternal City," he said. "Essentially death traps and twisted ankles await you any time you try to go out for a stroll. How we did not come out with dunn splints and ace bandages around our limbs I will never ever know.

"I think we were very lucky," he said.

ANDREW MEDICHIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actor Tom Hanks poses in front of St. Peter's Basilica during the photo call for the World Premiere of the movie "Angels & Demons," in Rome, Sunday.
‘Star Trek’ bold, but with some trouble

Christy Lemire

LOS ANGELES (AP) — J.J. Abrams' hugely anticipated summer extravaganza "Star Trek" boldly goes to the past within the distant future of the "Trek" universe, years ahead of the TV series and the myriad movies and spin-offs it spawned.

And in doing so, he and his long-time collaborators, writers Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman, change everything you know, or obsess about, if you're into this kind of thing, about the knifty pop-culture phenomenon.

It's a daring and exciting approach that's sure to tickle and provoke purists, while at the same time probably cause noptopites to feel a bit lost.

A major plot twist pops up which includes the arrival of Leonard Nimoy above halfway through the film, a twist that doesn't exactly work and the half-Vulcan, half-human Mr. Spock (Zachary Quinto) and puts them on a collision course with each other. Kirk (Chris Pine) and the half-Vulcan, half-human Mr. Spock (Zachary Quinto) and puts them on a collision course with each other. Kirk (Chris Pine) and the half-Vulcan, half-human Mr. Spock (Zachary Quinto)...

All that informs their interaction once they join the Starfleet Academy and ultimately climb aboard the shiny new USS Enterprise, which looks familiar and a little more tentative and less Zen-like. But maybe that sense of inner peace comes in time.

To find out if there's any social or political subtext, as in the original series, it's difficult to determine; this "Star Trek" seems solely made to entertain. It's an absolutely gorgeous film with impeccable production design, the lighting is wondrous, almost heavenly and breathtaking details frequently emerge from within the larger, grander images.

Abrams certainly puts on a good show, between television's "Lost" and the 2006 "Mission: Impossible" sequel he directed, there's no question he knows how to stage an action sequence, and the opening gets things off to a thrilling start. He efficiently and satisfyingly presents the back stories of the men who will become Capt. James T. Kirk (Chris Pine) and the half-Vulcan, half-human Mr. Spock (Zachary Quinto) and puts them on a collision course with each other. Kirk (Chris Pine) and the half-Vulcan, half-human Mr. Spock (Zachary Quinto) and puts them on a collision course with each other. Kirk (Chris Pine) and the half-Vulcan, half-human Mr. Spock (Zachary Quinto)...

Either you'll go with it or you won't. Regardless, based on Abrams' ambition and scope in reimagining the franchise, it's clear that the film progresses, and it's a crucial part of that fascinating, perplexing twist we mentioned earlier.

"Star Trek," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for sci-fi action and violence and brief sexual content. Running time: 127 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Bisexual continued from page 5

Jenna Ray is an English senior and Mustang Daily sex columnist.

Fall continued from page 5

course. It's a captivating, fast-paced story with a unique perspective on the world of science fiction. It's a story that keeps you guessing and wondering about the fate of these characters and the fate of the universe as we know it.

It's a story that explores the complexities of love, power, and the struggle to find one's place in the world. It's a story that celebrates the power of imagination and the importance of human connection.

It's a story that reminds us that, no matter how distant or difficult our world may seem, there is always hope for a brighter tomorrow. And in this story, that hope is embodied by the characters and the world they create.

The story begins with a young man named Jack, who is struggling to find his place in the world. He is a brilliant scientist, but his career is stalling and his personal life is falling apart. He is at a crossroads, and he must decide whether to continue on his current path or take a leap of faith and pursue his true calling.

As Jack embarks on his journey, he encounters a cast of extraordinary characters, each with their own unique challenges and dreams. There is Emily, a...
Glad he's coming home, but aware of what it means

May 14 will be the best day of the year. No, it's not my birthday and no, the administration didn't give us the day off to go to the beach. Actually for almost everyone else it's just another Thursday. For me, however, the date marks the homecoming of my dad after a year long tour of duty at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq.

I'm overjoyed by the idea of him being back on American soil. His deployment has taught me to value family and every moment I spend with them. I've thought so many times of how I took a simple "hey dad, how's it going?" phone call for granted before he was deployed. Now a two-minute 11:30 p.m. call or e-mail is a treat.

Upon receiving his marching orders in January 2008 he was a little surprised but the call to duty wasn't totally unexpected because other Navy logistics officers were also being activated; the soldiers in the Army couldn't do it by themselves anymore.

Since the war started in 2003 some troops have already served three tours in Iraq According to the New York Times, at least 197,000 have been sent to Iraq more than once and at least 53,000 have been deployed three or more times.

My dad is a Navy Commander and before this year hadn't served active duty since 1992. He had been deployed before but was excited to serve the nation during wartime. His work in Baghdad was spent mostly on base and not in combat. His focus was on the Iraqi Transportation Network and the goal was to have sheikhs form alliances and create trucking companies to move U.S. cargo. According to an article on Defense Link, the official Web site for the U.S. Department of Defense, Iraq received an economic boost and it took soldiers out of the dangerous position of guarding low priority cargo by creating these companies.

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One of my dad's favorite memories was flying in a helicopter over the Iraq countryside and seeing Iraqi children run out from their homes waving their war torn country. He said that many of them expressed great fear and hatred of Saddam Hussein when he was in power. One Iraq told him that under Hussein's reign, people who upset the government would be killed or simply disappear and that he always wondered when Americans would come to free them. When speaking with Iraqi truck drivers for his transportation project my dad said that the overwhelming public opinion is that Iraq's true enemy is Iran.

Currently, the violence seems to have calmed down. "When I first got to Baghdad, you could hear and feel explosions several times a day. I was fortunate that they were never close to me," he said. "Now it is pretty infrequent. Many days pass without any explosions or gunshots heard except from the practice range."

President Barack Obama announced his time line for leaving Iraq in February: By August 2010, he wants most troops withdrawn and by December 31, 2011, he wants American forces removed from the country.

The good news comes with some hesitation. "We are all glad that we are starting to pull out and everyone is concerned that Iraq doesn't fall into chaos after we leave," my dad said.

While I support President Barack Obama's plan for troop removal in Iraq I hope that all factors have been considered and troops are not sent home too soon. I want to see their progress and hard work go to good use. According to CNN, 4,283 Americans have died in Iraq since 2003; I don't want their efforts to be for nothing.

Once the troops leave I hope the country can be self-sufficient and flourish if we can help America's troops have a future provided. Over the past year I have become appreciative of my freedoms and realize just how lucky I am to live in a democratic country. Whether or not you agree with the war, it is important to recognize the troops' courageous efforts and support them in every endeavor without them America would not be the country it is today.

Jennifer Tizcomb is a journalism and graphic communications junior and a Mustang Daily reporter and copy editor.
A shout out to the single moms

I once saw a commercial that said mothers were superheros and had special powers. I don’t remember what the ad was for but I think it is true of all parents, particularly single parents.

So I get it, the more I realize how good I’ve got it as far as my mother is concerned. I don’t know what has brought about this sudden awareness, maybe the fact that I am about to graduate and enter the real world. Or that one of my best friends has a 1-year-old child and I see how hard it is to be a single parent.

Political commentator and right-wing, quick to judge author Ann Coulter would beg to differ, but in my opinion, good single parents are the unusual superheros of the world, downing capes of responsibility with little support or recognition from society. While other superheros lift buildings with their super strength, single parents carry a work load intended for two people. They fight off every villain that anyone else throws at their kid. They cruise around in a minivan instead of the Batmobile.

How do I know this? I was raised by one. Some parents choose to go it alone if their parenting counterpart is not up to par. Mine developed her superpowers when she was widowed at 40 and I was five.

They say that when people lose one of their senses, the other four become stronger, like the blind superhero Daredevil. This also rings true for me. When my dad died, my mom, who had been a good parent, had to be even better.

Coulter will be the first to tell you that statistics show that girls who have lost a father or have me out of wedlock. But that doesn’t mean she didn’t raise me by herself, alone, single-handedly. And I wonder what the state of a child of a widow any less screwed up than that of a divorced or single woman?

Coulter also states in her book that “as a society, we need to understand: staying in marriage, even a bad marriage, is better for the children except in the most egregious cases because single parents, even conscientious, well-meaning single parents, generally don’t do a good job raising their children as two parent families.”

Regardless of what her statistics say, this is quite the statement coming from a woman who has never been married and has no children.

Single parents are often stereotyped by women like Coulter as being flaky and irresponsible. What is this based on? Coulter’s high and mighty Republican values? You can be a bad parent no matter what your marital status is or which political party you affiliate with. And those who are raising their children alone, whether it be by choice or circumstance, have it twice as hard as the average parent.

My mother has found that people are quick to judge and then curious to find out why she is raising a child alone. They always assume divorce, rather than death, and seem almost relieved to find out that she was widowed.

Like I mentioned earlier, I have been thinking about how good I’ve had it. After my dad’s death I think my mom seriously contemplated climbing into a martini glass and drowning herself. But instead she poured herself into making sure I was all right.

It’s weird to think that I could have had a mother who had as many dates as her daughter or drank like it was her job, but I don’t. The only man that could fill my dad’s place in my heart would literally have to be Superman. And although my mom has a career in counseling and education, her main job was me and making sure I was OK.

Statistics also show that their children are at a disadvantage, and while their contribution isn’t as obvious as saving the world from mass destruction, single parents are doing their part to make the world a better place, one kid at a time. And in the real world, that’s what matters.

Bridget Velletri is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

Appraising professionals seeking sustainable careers have a veritable blank slate before them, a reality that can inspire more confidence than is even the most seasoned intern. The prospect of entering a burgeoning field with the potential to save the world is certainly attractive, but the path to profitable green business can be elusive.

Questions I usually hear include, “I want a green career but which one?” Or “Why do I continue to be a single parent?”

Inspired people have been bitten by the green bug. This bite can inject such unbridled enthusiasm into the bloodstream that befuddles the brain. How does one gain enough clarity amidst the confusion to find a niche? And to what extent does the aspiring eco-entrepreneur apply sustainability?

As I’ve found out, more and more students here at Cal Poly are quite aware that their university provide them with the tools they will need to help build a better world. They are realizing that in order to have the knowledge and tools for the jobs they want in the 21st century, they’re going to have to integrate ideas of sustainability, ecology and social justice into whatever field they pursue.

From business to bridges, traditions and fields of study are transforming to ensure students who want to make a difference the knowledge and skills they’ll need to become part of the sustainability revolution. But this revolution is not like the ones that came before. It will not be characterized by weapons of mass destruction, but with knowledge and cohesiveness, with educated agents of change, ready to fill the niches of the bright green revolution affinity.

If you plan to someday run a company, particularly a products-oriented enterprise, roadways exist to guide you on your way going green. Methodologies such as the Natural Step provide a framework to integrate sustainability into every aspect of your business. However, if you are studying information technology engineering or even public relations, you need to be more innovative.

Sustainability is not merely in the output. For every finished green product, there are hundreds of processes behind the production, packaging, distribution, and marketing of that product. The demand for sustainable services is rapidly increasing in every sector. A company that engages in sustainability reporting using a framework such as the Global Reporting Initiative will be critical to scrutinize its suppliers upstream and downstream. Thousands of companies worldwide, including hundreds in the United States alone, seek sustainable suppliers and services professionals.

This is the space that screams for green innovation.

It and consulting services professionals can tap into endless opportunities by addressing the challenges that sustainability presents to various industries. Developing a concept for a data management system focused on a sustainable supply chain may not be as sexy as designing the latest electric sports car, but it is not less relevant in the scheme of green. In fact, discourse over environmental IT solutions has reached a critical mass, warranting its own news site, produced by GreenBiz, GreenComputing.com.

Shallow sustainability focuses merely on the production and sale of green products. Sophisticated sustainability strategies rely on systems thinking, where every aspect of a process has the ability to affect every other aspect. This distinguishes whole-systems thinking as a keen awareness of the importance of sustainability throughout the supply chain and feedback loops. It involves a willingness to consider all significant aspects of an issue, and not to jump to appealing (but usually wrong) simplifications.

Within this context, everyone can apply sustainability to their own work. It is clear, you are already applying it to your career by finding ways to integrate sustainability into your area of expertise.

So answer these questions:

What do you love to do that you’re also good at? What type of work environment is best for you? Do you want to consult for a large company, large company, etc.)? What industry do you have the most knowledge or interest in? What type of work environment is best for you? Do you want to consult for a large company, etc.)?

Make a diagram of these relationships and consider how you might fit into the scheme of things. What are your top five interests? How do you plan to make such a change? What are you currently doing? How do you plan to make such a change? What are your top five interests?

This is a process of self-discovery but it is well worth the time. When you find a way to express your deepest values in your work, you have a calling, not just a job.

Warning: It’s addictive. It may force you to make big changes in your life!

If a part to plan your future. Develop your ideas. Once you have something that resembles a workable concept, conduct a feasibility study. Let your potential future clients be your guide. Before you know it, they will become co-creators in the process. You could be a pioneer in green development or a proprietary tool that you can market to an entire industry.

Sustainability offers opportunities for future professionals from every discipline. Nobody has the market cornered on anything. If you could be sure that the best applications for sustainability hadn't been discovered, would this knowledge edge grant you the freedom to at least try? If you stay persistent in your passion, you'll find your niche amidst the confusion and all the next great idea. Now get to the drawing board. What in the world are you waiting for?

Ben Eckold is a business senior, the former president of the Environmental Policy Coalition and a Mustang Daily columnist.

Write a letter to the editor!

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**Gonzalez qualifies for second NCAA Western Regionals**

Cal Poly junior golfer Geoff Gonzalez will make his second appearance at the NCAA Division I West Regional beginning May 14.

The regional, held at the Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City, will include 13 teams and 10 individuals not on those teams. The low five teams and the low individual not on those teams will advance to the finals.

Teams in the regional include Big West Conference champion UC Davis and runner-up UC Irvine. UC Davis beat UC Irvine by seven strokes for the Big West title last month at the San Luis Obispo Country Club. The Cal Poly men's golf team finished in seventh place.

Six 54-hole regional tournaments will be conducted with the winners include 11 teams and 10 individuals not on those teams. The low four teams and the low live teams and 10 individuals not on those teams will advance to the finals.

Gonzalez qualified for the regionals as a freshman in 2007 at Arizona State's Karsten Golf Course in Tempe and finished tied for 53rd place with a four-under-par 212 total.

He has had his share of success this season particularly towards the end of the year. Gonzalez posted four top 10 finishes in his last four tournaments of the regular season this spring.

He won the Anteater Invitational hosted by UC Irvine and finished tied for first place in the Cal Poly Intercollegiate at Cypress Ridge Golf Course, losing in a playoff.

Gonzalez averaged 71.9 strokes over 23 rounds with five top 10 finishes and 13 rounds of par or better this season. His career average of 72.57 strokes per round is second to Mustang career record-holder Travis Bemont (71.76).

Gonzalez' teammate Stephanie Yocum won the Big West Conference's Individual championship last week.

**THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS**

**BASEBALL**

**VS. CAL STATE FULLERTON**

**FRIDAY 6:00PM**

**SATURDAY 6:00PM**

**SUNDAY 1:00PM**

**Baggett Stadium**

**BioSport Day and Post-game**

Base running with the Mustangs - All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game and all fans can join the Mustangs following the game to run the bases of Baggett Stadium!
Jensen was injured in a collision over the weekend and is expected will have to do so without one of its most talented young players.

Cal Poly softball has put up some impressive numbers this season. No. 21 in the nation, 18-1 at home, first in the Big West Conference, not to mention a Big West-leading .304 team batting average, .415 team slugging percentage and 1.72 team ERA. Here’s another number to ponder — 14.

The Mustangs have achieved all this while boasting a mere 14-player roster. Yet, head coach Jenny Condon sees it as a blessing in disguise. “It benefits the players; there is more one-on-one and individual coaching with each player,” she said. “It was a little worrisome, but once I let it go and realized that everyone had my back (I was fine),” said Cahn, who became Cal Poly’s single-season victories leader (25) and total innings leader (219.2), “I feel that everybody has really focused on themselves a lot better and have not been focusing on the other dugout.”

Cal Poly set to battle Trojans again

Earlier this year, the Cal Poly baseball team defeated Southern California for the first time in 34 years. Tonight the Mustangs are looking to make it two in a row.

Cal Poly (32-12) will face USC at 7 p.m. in Dedeaux Field in a non-conference game that could have postseason implications for the Mustangs.

While they moved up one slot to No. 12 in the Baseball America Top 25 poll, Cal Poly is not guaranteed a postseason spot in the NCAA Regionals.

The Trojans have one of the richest histories in college baseball, sporting 12 national championship banners and 21 College World Series appearances. USC has produced 96 major league players and owns a commanding 18-4 all-time series advantage over Cal Poly.

Junior first baseman Adam Buschini broke a 4-4 tie in the seventh inning with a two-run single to help the Mustangs beat USC on March 31 at Baggett Stadium.

If Cal Poly is to have a repeat performance against the Trojans it will have to do so without one of its most talented young players.

Freshman second baseman Matt Jensen was injured in a collision over the weekend and is expected to miss out to six weeks. Barring a long run through the regionals, Jensen is likely to miss the rest of the season.

“We’ll have a pretty big impact on us,” Mustangs head coach Larry Lee said of Jensen’s absence. “Adam Buschini is very confident in his hitting right now, and Ross Brayton.

“Adam Buschini is very confident in his hitting right now, and Ross Brayton.

“It’s been a strange year — we’ve had a lot of injuries, a lot of illnesses and we’ve weathered the storm,” Lee said. “But now we’re playing some really strong competition in the likes of Fullerton, Long Beach and Riverside.”

The Mustangs have been riddled with injuries this season as multiple players have missed chunks of time including Wes Diorelli, Buschini and Ross Brayton.

“They’ve got a pretty good ballclub,” Lee said of USC. “They’re putting a lot of pressure on the Trojans.”

The Trojans are 21-30 entering the weekend series against the Mustangs at Dedeaux Field.

While the Trojans have struggled this season, Lee said they are still a dangerous team. “We can’t overlook the Trojans.”

“Our guys will enjoy playing at USC,” Lee said. “It’s just a matter of pitching well enough to give us a chance to win in the late innings.”

Cal Poly softball, shown above, has a roster half the size of most national powerhouse.