Summer construction projects will change the look of Cal Poly

Chris Jagger

This summer marks a period of transition for the Cal Poly campus, with several highly anticipated large-scale construction projects slated to start immediately after final week.

The Recreation Center expansion is a large, invasive project. With a budget of $7.1 million, it is a massive venture and construction is not predicted to be complete until June of 2012.

While actual construction will begin next fall, the temporary facility will be created this summer. The main gym will be closed from June 15 until Sept. 14. During this time it will be renovated to house the 10,000 square foot temporary facility. The entire Recreation Center will be shut down between Aug. 25 and Sept. 14 in order for all of the equipment to be moved into the temporary facility.

In addition, the University Union Plaza is being completely re-designed and the first phase of construction will begin on June 15 as well. University Union Advisory Board chair Carl Payne said, "We have a huge population that move in and out of the space, so we're trying to look to them and then make changes accordingly and make it a more inviting space, with a softer feel."

The UU plaza will be closed off during construction but there will be still be access to all businesses, including Starbucks Coffee, El Corral Bookstore and Backstage Pizza. Business hours will not change. All of the second-floor balconies will not be affected and temporary walkways will be placed throughout the plaza.

Associated Students Inc. is trying to mitigate construction-related issues for both the expanded Recreation Center and the improved UU plaza but realizes that construction can be frustrating and stressful for students.

"We are trying our best to educate the students and the campus community as to why we're doing it and how the timing worked out," Payne said. "We're trying to make sure the students understand that this is a student-driven project."

One area of concern is how the UU construction is going to affect UU Hour and the ASI concert series, which takes place on Thursdays at 11 a.m. According to Payne, the concerts will be scaled back but still take place in the Via Carta Mall, near Campus Market. Space in this area will also be reserved for club booths and sandwich boards.

ASI expects the new synthetic turf fields to be in use by July 1. These improved fields are replacing the three upper fields used for intramural sports, which were hard to maintain and caused numerous event cancellations due to poor playability.

ASI-driven projects account for only a portion of the construction happening on campus this summer. Phase two of the Poly Canyon Village construction will wrap up soon, completing the enormous 36-acre student housing project, which will provide 618 furnished rooms to 2700 continuing students.

According to Johan Uyttewaal, associate director of building design and construction at Cal Poly, the Anderson Pool is expected to be completed this June. The new stainless steel pool, located right outside Mott Gym, will have 19 lanes, 25 yards in length and eight 50-yard lanes. A 15 to 30 foot therapy pool is being installed as well.

Construction on the Sampson Strong-Tie Materials Demonstration Laboratory will begin this August. Construction Management students will use this laboratory, located right behind the newly completed Constructions Innovation Center. It is expected to be completed by July 2010.

The $124 million replacement of the Spider Building was supposed to begin this spring but is currently on hold pending budget release from the state, according to Uyttewaal.

see Construction, page 9
you what?

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There's one thing Cal Poly graduates want to keep in mind when hunting for their dream job this summer: be flexible. Chances are you won't find one right away.

In the midst of a harsh job market, Cal Poly career counselor Carole Moore advises students to match their skills with industries that are flourishing now, instead of forcing the issue in an industry that they've had their hearts set on.

"This isn't a doom and gloom situation," Moore said. "There are still jobs out there, it's just a time when you need to be more flexible."

Although some job markets are bogged down and have little work available, there are others that are having trouble filling positions. According to CNBC's list of the 10 hardest jobs to fill in the United States, engineering positions rank No. 1. That bodes well for Cal Poly's staple major: engineering, which accounts for more than a quarter of Cal Poly's student population.

Other industries that have been less impacted by the failing economy include healthcare, nonprofit organizations, federal government and "green" industries. Accounting and finance positions are also widely available, due to lack of students majoring in this field according to CNBC.

Whatever industries graduating Cal Poly students plan on heading into, if they haven't already secured jobs in them, they need to be aware that jobs are limited and companies are hiring at a slower pace than usual. This means that students need to cast a wider net and take opportunities seriously, Moore advised.

On the Cal Poly campus, career fairs and recruitments have seen a dramatic decrease of activity. This year saw 544 employers recruiting on campus, which is a dramatic drop from the 756 visiting a year before. The Job Fair that Cal Poly hosts during the winter quarter has taken an even bigger hit from 107 employers on campus in 2007 to only 41 in 2009.

"Students are going to have to be much more organized and much more aggressive when they enter the job market now," Moore said. "Be prepared. Know everything about the company that you are interviewing for, everything."

For students searching for jobs, Moore recommends using Web sites like indeed.com, dice.com and idealist.org, where you will find more of the nonprofit opportunities. However, using the Mustang Jobs link on MyCal Poly Portal is probably the most efficient tactic, because employers are specifically looking for Cal Poly students.

"Mustang Jobs is really useful, because jobs are searching for you," Moore explained. "Whereas, on other sites, you're searching for the job."

As far as dressing for an interview, applicants want to look professional and conservative. While professional and conservative are terms left to a variety of interpretations, Moore defined it as slacks and a button-down shirt.

According to Moore, the most important thing to establish right now is a strong networking base. Networking with teachers, students and previous employers is a good way to get notified of job openings and can often get applicants interviews because of someone's recommendation.

"It's like to celebrate every little step," Moore said. "If a student gets an interview or if they get a second interview, those are things to be proud of, because they are steps that lead to getting a job."

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Review: Dazzling Palm software beats the iPhone

Peter Svensson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Move over, iPhone. You’ve had two years on top of the smart phone world. Now there’s a touch-screen phone with better software: the Palm Pre.

In a remarkable achievement, Palm Inc., a company that was something of a has-been, has come up with a phone operating system that is more powerful, elegant and user-friendly. The Pre, which went on sale last Monday for $200 (after a mail-in rebate) at Sprint stores, makes it easier to do more things on the go.

We like the Palm’s new operating system, you can keep multiple applications open at once. They’re organized like a row of cards that stretches off the screen, and you flick the screen to switch between them. For instance, if you need to quickly check your calendar while writing an e-mail, you can bring up the calendar application, then flick back to e-mail, then keep switching between them as you try to work out your schedule.

Also unlike the iPhone, webOS will notify you of events that need your attention, no matter which application you’re in. Notification icons for e-mail, calls and over events appear at the bottom of the screen. If you tap on the e-mail notice, for instance, the message pops up.

So webOS makes the iPhone look clunky, which is stunning in itself. It also thoroughly shows up Microsoft Corp.’s Windows Mobile. That operating system has had multithreading for years, but few users have appreciated that. Rather, Windows Mobile has been criticized for making phones clumsy and slow. Now, webOS comes along and does multithreading right.

Also very cool is that webOS aggregates contacts and calendar items from multiple sources, like Google, corporate Exchange servers, and even Facebook. You know how lost phones have space for a photo, for each contact? The Pre automatically pulls your friends’ Facebook photos into your contact list.

As far as the hardware goes, the Pre is not a perfect match to the iPhone, but not exceptional. It’s slightly smaller and chubbier than an iPhone, with softly rounded corners that make it look like a black bar of soap.

The screen diagonal is 3.1 inches, noticeably smaller than the iPhone’s 3.5 inches. Less screen space means it’s harder to hit the right area with your finger, but the Pre makes up for this a bit by making the surface just below the screen touch-sensitive. For instance, to go back one level from underneath the screen, it isn’t the best I’ve seen on a phone, but it does the job, and you’ll find it much easier to use than the iPhone’s on-screen keyboard.

When I first got the Pre, I was dismayed by its battery life. I got less than 24 hours of light use out of it, and it would lose nearly a third of its charge if left in-active overnight. It turns out there’s a bug that drains the battery if your Google instant-messaging account is connected to your M.I. Instant Messenger account. Palm says it will fix that. When I logged out of AIM, I got much longer life.

I extended battery life even further by setting the Pre to receive my personal e-mail instantaneously rather than checking every 15 minutes. That’s counterintuitive — usually getting the e-mail automatically “pushed” to a device consumes more power. I ended up with nearly two days of battery life, which I think is acceptable for a handwriting smart phone. But it would be great if Palm made it easier to manage power consumption.

That said, charging the Pre is almost half the fun, if you plug on a $30 “Touchstone.” You place the Pre on this small charging station, and it uses magic to radiate power through the phone’s back. (The scientifically coined can replace “magic,” with “electromagnetic induction.”)

It’s a lot cooler than connecting a cable or a sliding the device into a dock, but it’s only marginally easier to use than a cable, so consider this a luxury purchase.

The Pre’s camera captures 3-megapixel images. That’s not an amazing resolution, but I prefer the Pre’s camera over the 8-megapixel one in the Sony Ericsson C905, and every other phone camera I’ve tried.

Why? Because other phone cameras have a big failing: It takes too long for them to take a picture after you’ve pressed the shutter button. They’re impossible to use for action shots, or for capturing fleeting expressions.

The Pre’s camera has very little shutter lag. It’s not as good as a single

less reflex camera, or SLR, but it’s better than a lot of digital point-and-shoots.

The Pre also has the now-standard array of smart phone features: Wi-Fi, Global Positioning System and an online store for applications. The Web browser is very fast, given a fast data connection. You can zoom in and out on Web pages by pinching and spreading with two fingers, just as on the iPhone. The Pre has 8 gigabytes of built-in storage, same as the cheaper iPhone model.

Unlike for a non-Apple device, the Pre pretends it’s an iPod when you connect it to a Macintosh or Windows PC with iTunes, so you can easily transfer your music library and photos to it. It won’t play movies or TV shows bought from the iTunes Store, nor will it play songs that were purchased with usage restrictions.

So should you get a Pre? Despite the fantastic software, this isn’t a slam dunk decision.

We don’t know how software developers will take to the Pre. There are a lot of different smart phone systems clamoring for their attention, and webOS may not be able to replicate the success of the iPhone App Store when it comes to providing a wide range of useful applications. There are only about 20 apps available at launch.

We also don’t know what else Palm has up its sleeve. Sprint Nextel Corp. doesn’t have the same lock on the Pre as AT&T Inc. does on the iPhone, so we may see the Pre with other carriers early next year.

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Library clash could put George W. Bush under oath

Jeff Carlsoto

A Texas is trying to put a former president under oath and find out what he knew and when he knew it. But the issue isn't national security, political skullduggery or a sex scandal.

It's a property dispute involving George W. Bush's presidential library at Southern Methodist University.

Gary Vodicka stands where his condo once was and talks about the old neighborhood at the future site of the George W. Bush presidential library in Dallas, Friday.

Gary Vodicka, who was forced out of his condominium by SMU to make way for the project, contends the university coveted the property as the future site of the library even before Bush ran for the White House, and lied about its intentions.

On April 17, a Texas district judge ordered the former president to appear at a deposition to answer Vodicka's questions about the library's planning stages.

"I was humbled by the ruling," said Vodicka, 49, a lawyer who is representing himself in the case against SMU. "No one person is supposed to be above the law. And Bush is trying to act like he is."

The order has been stayed pending all appeal, but if it stands, it could be historic; No sitting or former president ever has been forced to testify in a state court proceeding, according to John Martin, one of Bush’s attorneys.

Martin and an SMU attorney expressed confidence that the order would be overturned, saying the former president has no information of value to offer in the dispute.

"I think his deposition is unrelated.

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Woman is 7th generation graduate of West Point

Michael Hill
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caroline Miller, who will graduate from the United States Military Academy on Saturday, and her father Jerry Miller, a 1973 graduate of the academy, pose in West Point, N.Y.

Clipart

Woman is 7th generation graduate of West Point

Caroline Miller, a saber in her white-gloved hand, leads cadets of Company D with crisp commands. "Ready ... eyes right!" As hundreds of West Point cadets march across the sprawling green grass for review, she is in lockstep.

She also is following in the footsteps of family members who have marched just like this for seven generations, forming a long gray bloodline, longer than any still existing at West Point.

Miller's ancestors have fought in the Civil War, World War I, World War II and Vietnam. They have served since her great-great-great-grandfather graduated when Andrew Jackson was president 173 years ago. Her father graduated here. Her sister too.

Now it's her turn. On Saturday, the 22-year-old will be among the more than 950 cadets commissioned second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, forming another link in an unbroken family chain of West Point graduates.

"I consider it more of a privilege than a burden," Miller said. "I'm walking where my great-great-grandfathers have walked and I'm having the same opportunity that they had, to see what they saw, to do what they used to do. I'm part of an incredible tradition."

West Point holds on hard to its 207 years of history. Looming over the west shore of the Hudson River like a stone fortress, cadets here wear gray uniforms that have barely changed over generations. Statues of world-changing graduates like Dwight Eisenhower and Douglas MacArthur stand watch over cadets marching to class.

That history is more personal for Miller. She had to run the same long-scyring indoor obstacle course her father endured. She has internalized the same honor code drilled into her great-grandfather. She has sat in the same Giffin mess hall here (think Hogwarts, but as a military school) wondering where her ancestors sat.

Such "dynasties" are not unusual at West Point. What sets the Millers apart is a direct line stretching across seven generations to forbid Carl Woodruff. An 1836 graduate, he was a topographical engineer who helped defend Washington, D.C., against Confederate forces during the Civil War.

Maybe the banner of the bunch was great grandfather Fay Prickett, a 1916 graduate who served in World War I and II, passed military service.

His eldest daughter, Kate, at the academy in 1989, Caroline was inspired. The 7-year-old girl saw the cadets marching and fell in love with the place.

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Generations

continued from page 7

"I knew then she had the right mindset to do something like this," The Millers say they never pressured their daughter to go to West Point, only to serve their country in some capacity. Kate is now in the California Air National Guard, another daughter is a social worker and the youngest is studying to be an elementary school teacher.

Her father and sister offered Caroline been-there, done-that tips. Caroline, who studied engineering, did well enough to serve as a company commander and as a co-captain of the women’s soccer team.

After receiving her Army commission, she will take a break to get married. (She’s a West Point graduate, naturally.) She then will train alongside before receiving an assignment.

She said she is prepared for a likely deployment to Afghanistan or Iraq. After that, she might want to pursue legal training in the military or maybe come back to West Point to teach. But she says she won’t force her children to become the eighth generation at West Point.

"Encourage them, yes. Force them, no," she said. "I think West Point is something you need to do for yourself. You can’t do it for your parents or the expectations of others."
Construction

This enormous project will provide over 500,000 square feet of space for lecture rooms, laboratories, and faculty offices. All equipment will be updated to fit modern industry needs. The large amount of construction occurring this summer may seem overwhelming, but it is necessary for the projects to start soon. The projects are dependent on budget timing and on necessity required by the student body,” Urruela said.

At times, construction will impede routes of transportation around campus. According to Urruela, South Perimeter Rd. will be closed to traffic on Sept. 1, 2009. Bus routes will undergo changes starting in summer. Bus stops in front of the UU and Mort Gym will be closed on June 15. During the summer, students will be asked to catch the bus either at the Performing Arts Center or in front of the Graphic Arts building.

New bus stops will be created over summer as well. One will be located on Grand Ave. near the Perimeter Rd. intersection and another in front of Kennedy Library. The bus stop normally in front of the UU will be moved about 100 yards down the road and placed in front of The Avenue.

While campus projects are getting aproach, this summer, Urruela contends that a similar degree of construction has occurred in past years. “Construction has been ongoing on the campus for the last 10 years with the construction of the new engineering buildings, the sports field, the housing administration building, both housing projects (Vista and Poly Canon Village) and the student population has been very responsive, understanding and adaptable to these great enhancements.”

Dormspace

Students at Johnson & Wales University will pay nearly rents of $10,353 for one-bedroom apartments and $12,210 for two-bedroom units — comparable prices to on-campus dorms.

“We want the students to treat it more as if it was their home than just a dorm room,” said Janie Stone, a Johnson & Wales student who just moved out of her dorm room.

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"What significant knowledge or lessons have you learned in college that will help you later in life?"

"The significant lesson that I've learned in college is that hard work pays off. If I spend time studying and put in a lot of effort, I'm going to get the outcome that I want."

-Golnaz Ghomeshi, nutrition freshman

"Love your friends, die laughing."

-Tommy Holcomb, communications freshman

"Time management and organization is extremely important. I've definitely learned that things don't work out well when you procrastinate."

-Ashlee Chan, music sophomore

"Part of time management is taking time to enjoy yourself so you're not too stressed out."

-Sarah Kensky, social sciences junior

"College is a good time to break bad habits because procrastination is not an option in the real world."

-Justin Loy, industrial technology junior

"I've learned to keep an open mind and always be willing to meet new people."

-Kaitlin Strang, graphic communications freshman

"I think that the time that I have spent here at Cal Poly has taught me to be my own advocate. The 'learn by doing' philosophy really carries through in the entire student experience."

-Chris Bono, journalism senior

"I've learned the importance of being organized. If you're not, you will forget about what needs to get done and your grades could drop."

-Zack Wortiska, agribusiness junior

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Caps off to the grads

Bridget Veltri
MUSSAN DAILY

I am about to officially become a college graduate but as I walked in to the Mustang Daily newsroom this morning I found out that there was still one last thing that I had to learn. Yes my fellow seniors, I did not know that the hideous yet prestigious flat hat that dons the domes of recent college grads as they accept their diplomas, along with their fate in the ill-suited economy, is called a mortarboard.

This makes sense because the thing is basically cardboard and fabric, but it doesn’t have to be according to my more crafty friends. The decorating of the mortarboard may not be the most traditional of graduation events but it sure seems to be gaining popularity; it is a great way to stand out in a sea of black, it also makes it easier to identify after being tossed into the air.

Like I mentioned prior, I am not crafty but I like to think that I am clever. So hear are some decorative cap suggestions.

Pay a tribute:
If your parents will be sweating in the sun to watch you strut across the stage why not give them a subtle shout out via your hat. A simple “Hi mom” or “I love you dad” or “I heart my Grandma” will do.

I had a friend last year, who decided to pay homage to her education degree and teaching ambitions by decorating her hat with an apple and an A+.

Get sandy or look to nature for inspiration:
My buddies, some of whom surf, some who don’t, decided to look to the shores for inspiration. They seem to have seashells and sand dollars on the brain. I am thinking that I will purchase a fake monarch butterfly or two from Beverly’s downtown and strategically hot glue them to mine.

It’s all about the glitz and glam; summon your inner third grader and bedazzle that black flat abyss. Enough said.

Be practical; you never know who might be watching in the audience, or better yet who might be hiring. Put your résumé on your hat or just a big bold, “hire me”.

Hey, you’re in the real world now, no time like the present to start networking. Or if you have a job, show your gratitude by putting the logo on the cap.

Demonstrate your passion or be patriotic:

Take a tip from the fridge: no magnets needed, attach pictures of you and your friends on top of your hat or get crazy and make a mobile out of it. Friends often equal family in college and the memories you have made with your buddies are bound to last longer than what you learned in math. Toast it; start the celebration a little bit early by getting a little tipsy and putting the bottle caps to good use. Bottle caps are readily available in this environment and come in an array of colors. Beirut, if you have lived here you know that it’s not just a city in Lebanon, set up a game up top. Cheers.

Go greek:
Yeah we know and love members of the greek community that wear their letters loud and proud. Why not give them one last hurrah, put them on your hat and give your bothers and sisters something to cheer about?

When you pick up your mortarboard, get your craft supplies and go crazy. But remember: No matter how snazzy your hat is, nothing will detract from the fact that you are a college graduate. The true decoration lies within the accomplishment. Congrats.
Woman sues comedian
over ‘Bruno’ skirmish

Anthony McCartney
AP NEWSWIRE

LANCASTER, Calif. (AP) — Sacha Baron Cohen’s new movie is already getting the same sort of buzz and legal backlash that came with his last hit. This time, though, a woman is alleging injuries far beyond just a bruised ego or reputation.

Richelle Olson sued the 37-year-old actor-comedian and NBC Universal on May 22, claiming an incident at a charity bingo tournament that was filmed for the upcoming “Bruno” left her disabled.

Olson claims she was severely injured after struggling with Baron Cohen and his film crew at the event in Palmdale, Calif., two years ago. The lawsuit states she now needs a wheelchair or cane to move around.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages of more than $2.3 million.

Phone and e-mail messages left with publicists for Baron Cohen and NBC Universal weren’t returned Wednesday.

His 2006 film “Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakstan” produced numerous lawsuits by people claiming they see “Bruno.” page 13
Bruno

continued from page 12

were duped and humiliated by his antics. A New York judge last year threw out claims by a driving instructor and two etiquette teachers after determining they signed agreements releasing filmmakers from liability. It was unclear whether the incident involving Olson will appear in "Bruno." The lawsuit mentions contracts that Olson apparently signed, but claim they were entered under "duress" and included several misrepresentations. "Borat" was a surprise box-office hit, earning more than $125 million in the United States. In "Bruno," scheduled for release July 10, Baron Cohen plays a flamboyantly gay Austrian fashionista. Much like in "Borat," Baron Cohen's humor depends on cajoling people to let him into events and he then tapes their reactions to his outlandish behavior.

The character is already making a splash — a sketch during Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards had Bruno drooping over Eminem with his crotch placed in the rapper's face. It became the show's most talked-about moment.

Colson's lawsuit contends Baron Cohen has 30 sham companies that help him pull off his ruses and that is how the comedian and his camera crew gained entry into the Desert Valley Charities' bingo tournament in May 2007.

Baron Cohen was invited to the event because his handlers identified him as a "celebrity" who was filming a documentary on bingo, the suit states. The event was to raise money for nursing students.

According to the lawsuit, Baron Cohen — in character as Bruno — started using vulgarities while calling the second bingo game in front of a mostly elderly audience. A struggle ensued after Olson tried to grab the microphone away from Baron Cohen. She claims he then called his camera crew over, who attacked her for at least a minute, hoping to "create a dramatic emotional response."

Olson's suit states she ran from the stage and was found moments later by a co-worker, sobbing uncontrollably. She then fell to the floor, hitting her head on a concrete slab.

The suit states she suffered internal bleeding as a result.

The lawsuit, filed in Oxnard about 70 miles north of downtown Los Angeles, was first reported by celebrity gossip Web site TMZ.
In Response to “Bill could force Poly Corp. to release records”:

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Let’s take Campus Dining as an example. I don’t think anybody is under the impression that the food is good. And yet, imperiously, the Corporation entices new students here by publishing statements to that effect. I have never met a student willing to pay for the pieces of crap that are sold in the dining halls. The truth is that the Cal Poly Corporation is not investing in your future and that you can make that money back later.

Let’s work together to get rid of obscure auxiliary organizations and make a better, more affordable school.

Cal Poly Corp. records should be transparent

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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Paul Bunyan never really got over the accidental crushing death of the Old Lady who Lived in a Shoe.

The New York Times
Crossword
Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0504

Across
1. In ___land (daydreaming)
2. Boxing products
3. "That's all ___d"
4. What it takes to second thoughts
5. Scandia, in Norway
7. "Got ___rd" (Beatnik's)
8. ...and downs?
9. High-hatter
10. High-quality
11. "Gesundheit!"
12. Arctic covering
13. Walks unsteadily
14. Greek vowels
15. "They're the best, they don't play any games"
16. Concorde, in 1969
17. Succumbing to middle name
18. Drug used to fight
19. Statutes
20. Performed prior to the main act
21. "That's all ... words"
22. Nefertiti's partner
23. Calendar
24. Easy two-pointer
25. Performed prior to the main act
26. "I actually have a date with an older woman"
27. Succumbing to the main act
28. Billiard sticks
29. Beginning of a Genesis garden
30. Loads
31. One still in the Spanish calendar
32. Loads

Down
1. "Veteran's group informally"
2. Returning to the previous speed, informally
3. Agitated state
4. Blunders
5. "I'm back!"
6. "I'm right!"
7. "I'm out!"
8. "I'm at the end of my rope!"
9. "I'm with the show audience"
10. "I'm an actor/brother"
11. "I'm a sailor"
12. "I'm a genetic material"
13. "I'm a UK, record label"
14. "I'm 978-"
15. "I'm a low digit"
16. "I'm a lower digit"
17. "I'm a two-door or four-door car"
18. "I'm a biblical captain for 40 days and 40 nights"
19. "I'm a golden ___"
20. "I'm a bimillennial"
21. "I'm a biblical captain for 40 days and 40 nights"
22. "I'm a biblical city on earth"
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Homemade wedding cake topper adds a personal touch

Jennifer Forker  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weddings often are costly affairs, but with enough advance planning and a little homemade ingenuity, you can make things instead of shelling out for them.

Wedding magazines and Web sites help too.

"There's nothing you can't craft for your wedding," says Darcy Miller, editorial director of "Martha Stewart Weddings" magazine. Among other items, she mentions gifts, decorations, flowers and the cake.

"Ah, the cake."

The Knot Inc., which runs two wedding-related Web sites, surveyed the spending habits of 3,000 couples who got married last year, and found that on average couples spent more than $500 on a professionally decorated cake. There are ways to limit that cost, Miller and other experts say. For starters, craft your own cake topper, and end up with a keepsake.

A recent "Martha Stewart Weddings" feature, for example, was clustering colorful, craft-store butterflies along one side of a fondant cake. Miller says.

Another lovely topper comes from "Real Simple Weddings," an annual guide published by "Real Simple" magazine; Deputy Editor Janine Zanzinger suggests placing tiny images of the bride and groom in elegant frames on top of the cake. She's also seen small cornflower doves adorn a cake's top and notes that many of those crafty items can be commissioned.

Feie Bellman Garvin, 38, of Golden, Colo., ordered a simple fondant cake from a baker for her own April wedding, then personalized it herself with a mountain-biking theme. Instead of paying the baker nearly $100 for chocolate-covered strawberries that were supposed to mimic boulders, she and her husband, John Garvin, substituted chocolate truffles from their local Whole Foods Market.

"The bride and groom are both bicycle enthusiasts, she says. An- other: Top the cake with a tea cup, either from grandmother's inherited china or from your own, registered china.

A recent lively topper comes from "Visual Weddings," an annual guide published by "Real Simple." In it, craft-store butterflies, along with more items, create something special for the top of the cake. Miller says.

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When I started as an assistant sports editor last summer I didn't know what to expect from Cal Poly athletics over the course of the next year. Everyone knew the football team would be good, but I think anyone could've really predicted the breadth of successes that would sweep across the campus during the following 12 months.

Below is a look at some of Cal Poly's successes from my tenure as a sports editor at the Mustang Daily.

Ramses Barden breaking NCAA records
Former Cal Poly receiver Ramses Barden, shown above, set numerous school and NCAA records during his senior season.

Barden was drafted in the third round by the New York Giants and is attempting to become a main target on a team that is suddenly without a legitimate No. 1 receiver.

Cal Poly softball team dominates Big West
The Cal Poly softball team was picked to finish third in both the media and coaches polls coming into a year in which they returned five all-conference selections. What were the pollsters thinking?

While people looking at stand­ings alone might have thought the Mustangs looked mediocre early in the season, they didn't realize that head coach Jenny Condon had loaded her team's schedule with several Top 25 teams. In fact, three of their first six games were against Top 10 opponents.

After playing such an aggressive non-conference schedule, Cal Poly was able to run roughshod through the Big West. The Mustangs dropped their first two conference games before winning 18 of their last 19 contests to secure a second Big West championship and a berth into the Palo Alto Regional of the NCAA softball tournament.

Cal Poly would fall to Stanford in the regional championship, but the Mustangs were able to make a lot of progress in finishing with a 41-12 record.

Men's soccer advances in NCAA tournament
The Cal Poly soccer team has been taking gradual steps each sea­son since head coach Paul Holoch­er arrived from UC Santa Cruz. The Mustangs have gone from a rebuilding program to a national threat in just three years.

That was never more evident than when Cal Poly defeated UCLA in the first round of the NCAA tournament earlier this year. While the victory marked the arrival of the Mustangs on the na­tional soccer scene, many Central Coast fans were already well aware of the team's skill level.

A sellout crowd of 11,075 saw UC Santa Barbara defeat Cal Poly 1-0 in double-overtime, making it see Success, page 18.
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Success
continued from page 17

Cal Poly's Adam Buschini, shown above, hit .422, the highest Division I batting average in school history this season.

Baseball team takes big step

Despite being knocked out of their first ever Division I postseason appearance in two games, Cal Poly took a huge step forward in making a regional for the first time.

Mustangs head coach Larry Lee said before the team left that it wouldn't matter how they did, only that they got there.

Let's face it, Cal Poly has been snubbed in the past in a number of sports. Breaking down the barrier of getting into the postseason is the first step towards becoming a perennial contender.

This emergence of freshmen second baseman Matt Jensen, who Lee said he believed would eventually be a first round draft pick, and pitcher Mason Radeke, shows that the Mustangs should remain at the forefront of the conference picture despite the Big West being one of the strongest leagues from top to bottom in the nation.

Women's basketball has huge turnaround

The Cal Poly women's basketball team hadn't had a winning record since 1991-92, when the Mustangs were a Division II program. But with two seniors in guard Lisa McBride, and forward Megan Harrison, and rising star Kristina Santiago leading the way, Cal Poly came within just minutes of reaching their first NCAA Tournament.

While perennial power UC Santa Barbara would ultimately overcome an early 15-point deficit to claim the Big West championship, Cal Poly erased the specter of several promising past seasons that had been marred by injury or suspension.

Although the McBride-Harrison duo has played their last games for Cal Poly, the team falls into the hands of Santiago, who head coach Faith Mimnaugh said she thought would be a conference player of the year award next season.

Cal Poly said goodbye to senior guard Lisa McBride, left, and forward Megan Harrison, right, during the 2008-09 season.
CONGRATULATIONS

Mustang Daily Graduating Staff Members!
Thank you for your countless hours of hard work and dedication.
Take this experience with you as you continue on with your careers,
best wishes in all of your future successes!

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