National university counseling services lack staff, study reports

Alicia Freeman
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The national average ratio of college counselors to students is 1-to-1,600, showing a possible shortage in staff for an increasing amount of students who require professional counseling, according to a study published by the International Association of Counseling Services, Inc. (IACS).

IACS, an international association which accredits college and university counseling services, reports that the standard for staff-to-student ratio is one professional staff member (excluding trainees) to every 1,000 to 1,500 students.

Elie Axelroth, head of counseling at Cal Poly, said the university "clearly does not have enough counselors," but most other California State Universities don't meet that standard either because of a combination of reasons.

"I think it's partly budget, and I think it's also partly a priorities issue," Axelroth said. "I think in the last several years, administrators in many universities are seeing the value in counseling services in terms of students success and potential."

The IACS study also reported that 91 percent of counseling directors nationally felt the number of students with severe psychological problems was increasing.

Axelroth, who has been at Cal Poly since 1984, said she felt this was true for many different reasons, including returning veterans and students who may not have been able to attend school in the past but are now able to due to stabilizing medication.

"Of course we know that students are often dealing with social anxiety, some concerns about who they are in the world and they may have some career questions, issues with their parents, dealing with conflict," Axelroth said. "This is a time in students' lives, the age range, (when) we would expect to see a psychotic break. We would expect to see the onset of major depression, anxiety disorders."

With more students needing counseling and less counselors to provide it, there comes an influx of appointments set far in advance.

The IACS website said some problems with a larger student-to-counselor ratio are increasing waiting lists and difficulty helping students who are experiencing more severe psychological problems.

Axelroth said this was true at Cal Poly, with some students having to wait two weeks before being seen by a counselor.

"In a 10-week quarter, two weeks time is a long time," Axelroth said. "And students are coming in because they're having trouble in school, so that's too long to wait.

And yet, we have so many students coming in in crisis, it's just how we have to manage it."

Axelroth said Counseling Services does provide walk-in services from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for students who need to be seen right away. Though these interactions are preliminary before a scheduled meeting, Axelroth said they provide students access to counselors sooner.

"They're seen for 15 or 20 minutes, and we do a quick assessment," Axelroth said. "We had a lot of good opinions coming from different angles." The parameters of the competition required the team to create a proposal to build three model homes in Yadkin County, N.C. In past competitions, students submitted proposals for large neighborhood developments in more urban areas.

Wenig said the team was encouraged by the fact that the problem was based off a construction project currently underway in North Carolina.

"Actually knowing that this project was going to happen, we knew in the back of our head, 'OK, it's feasible,'" Wenig said. For the team, one of the biggest hurdles was creating a project to meet the needs of a rural community on the other side of the country. Nick Turner, a construction management senior, said the North Carolina market was an unusual environment.

"The clientele is totally different from what we're used to in California," Turner said. The team stayed at Cal Poly several days into their winter break to finish in the packet, and several members

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A team of Cal Poly construction management students won first place at the Home Building Institute's (HBI) Residential Construction Management Competition, in association with the National Association of Home Builders, on Jan. 15. The students acted like custom homebuilders when submitting a funding proposal for the construction of three model homes.

The team's proposal covered everything from market research and financial analysis to construction schedule and estimated cost of construction. On Jan. 12 they presented before a panel of judges in Orlando, Fla.

Team captain and construction management senior, Ryan Wenig said the team was strengthened by a free-flow of ideas between members.

"Our team was really diverse," Wenig said. "We had a lot of good opinions coming from different angles."

The numbers to know:

- 1-to-1,600:
  - 10.8%:
  - 4%:
- 2 weeks:
Building
continued from page 1

They gave a "practically flawless" presentation, Kelting said.

"Practice makes perfect and they made sure the presentation was polished," Dunlap said.

Construction management professor Scott Kelting, who acted as team coach and recruiter said the technical and business-oriented team coach and recruiter said the quality of the presentation helped them place first.

"We had a practical presence and we made sure the proposal was organized and focused," Kelting said.

For students needing more health services, there are other counseling services on campus, namely the peer health group, Peers Understanding Understanding Listening. Speaking, Education (PULSE). PULSE is a group of student leaders who promote healthy lifestyle choices, provide confidential consultations, and large and small group presentations and wellness information and events.

Katie Kelly, a biological sciences junior and member of the PULSE team E.R.O.S, which focuses on safety, sexual assault, birth control and STI-related issues, said the Counseling Services' long wait list may be a disservice to some students who are very treatable with a combination of counseling and sometimes medication. "Overall, I think that if a student needs assistance for any reason is that both depression and anxiety are very treatable with a combination of counseling and sometimes medication," Axelroth said.

Farrington said she felt Cal Poly's Health Services provide needed help to students, though they may lack in some ways. "I believe a lot of students are shy about getting the help they need, so PULSE is offered for peer-to-peer contact and to help take students up to 10 percent, but we are not offered as well as accessible resources outside of campus," Farrington said.

As a peer counselor and psychology major myself, I love to help students as much as I can by providing them with all the resources I can offer as well as accessible resources outside of campus," Farrington said.

"If we look at statistics across the country, some counseling centers are seeing up to 10 percent, but we also know that men are less likely to use counseling services," Axelroth said. "So, since we have more men at Cal Poly than women, and that's unusual across the country, we would expect we would be seeing 8 percent. And, if we had the counselors, I feel absolutely certain we'd be seeing more students," Renee Okholm, a kinesiology senior and TLC team member said some students may be apprehensive about attending counseling sessions.

"(TLC) team, which focuses on sleep, drugs and alcohol, dating violence and time and stress management issues, said she felt a lower student-counselor ratio was unrealistic. "I believe a lot of students are shy about getting the help they need, so PULSE is offered for peer-to-peer contact and to help take students up to 10 percent, but we are not offered as well as accessible resources outside of campus," Farrington said.

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New mosque approved in Riverside county

Phil Willon
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Temecula City Council early Wednesday morning unanimously approved a proposed mosque after a marathon eight-hour hearing that swayed from vitriolic rants from residents castigating Muslims as terrorists to interfaith leaders praising the peaceful virtues of Islam.

In the end, the council's decision was made solely based on mundane issues such as traffic, parking and environmental impacts, with the council agreeing that the project exceeded all legal requirements for approval.

The vote came at 3:34 a.m. PST after the council sat patiently into the wee-morning hours listening to testimony from residents. More than 110 people signed up to testify, though some drifted away after sitting through six hours of speakers.

"This was a democratic republic at its best," said Councilwoman Mary-ann Edwards. Plans by the Islamic Center of Temecula Valley to build a 24,943-square-foot mosque on a vacant 4-acre plot in the Riverside County community of Temecula, next to a Baptist church, have been attacked by opponents who say the mosque will attract Islamic extremists and overwhelm the neighborhood with traffic congestion and noise.

The city's Planning Commission unanimously approved the project in early December, and opponents appealed that ruling to the City Council, which held a packed public hearing on the project Tuesday night.

"This is a great day for all of Temecula, really," said Imam Mohamoud Harmoush of the Islamic Center. Most of the criticism focused on the potential traffic congestion that the mosque may create on neighborhood streets, although city planners said an independent traffic study showed the center would have minimal effects.

Other speakers hurled visceral attacks against Islam, warning that the mosque would serve as a strategic foothold for extremists bent on undermining America's values and laws.

"If you want to come here and not abide by our laws, you can just turn around and find another place to live," said Amy Pina, 42, of Temecula. Just as many residents, including dozens of Muslims living in the Temecula Valley, condemned those attacks as bigoted vitriol born of an ignorance of Islamic beliefs.

"We are not terrorists. We are victims of terrorism ... we are victims of fear," Suhall Fares told the council.

The mosque and center reflect a Mediterranean design seen in many Temecula neighborhoods, though the building will have traditional domes topped with crescent moons. The facility will be built in two stages, with the first limited to a 4,100-square-foot mosque to serve about 150 Muslim families living in Temecula, Murrieta and surrounding communities.

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Get Involved
Obama visits crucial state to revive Democratic voters’ loyalty

Peter Nicholas
Tribune Washington Bureau

When President Obama took to Wisconsin Wednesday to sell the ideas in his State of the Union speech, he had an equally important mission: to re-capture the state and try to restore his electoral viability.

“In Wisconsin, like in other states that propelled his 2008 presidential victory, voters are concerned about the economy, rising federal deficits and the president’s health care plan, according to strategists from both parties.

Even though the state’s unemployment rate is a comparatively mild 7.5 percent — the national rate is 9.4 percent — voters harshly punished Obama’s party in the midterm elections. Republicans won a U.S. Senate seat, captured the governor’s office, picked up both houses of the state legislature and won a majority of the state’s congressional delegation.

“There’s almost not a living state Democratic office holder left after that; I exaggerate slightly,” said Charles Franklin, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

As a result, Wisconsin has become a familiar stop in Obama’s itinerary. Wednesday’s trip, to visit renewable energy plants, was his seventh appearance in the state since he took office.

Had Obama been on the ballot in Wisconsin last year, he might have had a tough time himself. In 2008 he beat his Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, by 14 points. But one survey of Wisconsin voters last month showed Obama with just a 4-point lead — nearly within the margin of error — over former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, one possible opponent in the 2012 race.

The president’s trip came as new projections by the Congressional Budget Office showed an increase in the federal deficit, to $1.5 trillion this year from $1.4 trillion in earlier forecasts.

The increase, a result of last month’s tax cut deal between Republicans and the White House, was expected. But the report also said the unemployment rate would remain above 9 percent through this year, dropping to 8.2 percent in 2012, when Obama will be up for re-election.

Nonetheless, as he traveled through Wisconsin, Obama tried to make the most of his visit, visiting renewable energy plants and delivering the message that the U.S. must churn out innovators and entrepreneurs if it is to keep its spot in the world economy.

“We need to win the future,” Obama said at one stop, stressing the importance of education. “We’ve got to be more productive, more capable, and more skilled than any other workers on Earth.

The president played up the Super Bowl-bound Green Bay Packers’ victory last Sunday over his hometown Chicago Bears.

He joked with the crowd at Orion Energy Systems that, within an hour of his arrival, he’d been handed three Packers jerseys — including one signed by star Charles Woodson.

“Sunday was a tough day for Bears fans,” said Obama, a native Chicagoan, of the NFC conference championship game.

“A conventional notion is that Obama’s political troubles are rooted in the fragile economy. Nationally, polls show the economy is the overriding worry and that Obama could lose in 2012 unless the job numbers perk up.

Yet Wisconsin voters seem driven by competing concerns. Republicans gained ground in the midterm elections by arguing that Obama’s policies were fueling the deficit and his health care plan was a dangerous government overreach, state strategists said.

Wayne Bigelow, chairman of the Dane County Democratic Party, faulted Democrats for failing to explain their policies. “The Democrats didn’t do a good job of marketing the health care plan. Most people didn’t know exactly how they were going to benefit from it,” he said. “People were confused. They didn’t know how it was going to help them; they didn’t know who was eligible.”

But the state’s new U.S. senator, Republican Ron Johnson, said in an interview that Wisconsin residents are concerned about federal spending.

“The people of Wisconsin are incredibly concerned with the out of control level of spending and debt,” said Johnson, who ousted incumbent Democratic Sen. Russell Feingold in November. “We realize that this is simply unsustainable. So I believe that unless he (Obama) changes course and begins to rein in the size and scope of the federal government, he’ll have problems in Wisconsin.”

At the White House, asselaging the under way. Obama has made overt moves to the center since the midterm election debacle, the latest being his promise in the State of the Union address to freeze non-security discretionary spending for five years. He also threatened to veto any bill with “earmarks,” the pet spending projects lawmakers past with little scrutiny.

Beyond the policy shifts, Obama is hoping a little personal attention makes a difference. Past presidential races here have been decided by the thinnest of margins.

In 2004, Democrat John Kerry won the state over George W. Bush by 50 to 49 percent. Four years earlier, Democrat Al Gore beat Bush in Wisconsin by less than 1 point.

“I’m always surprised that he (Obama) spends so much time here,” said Bill Kraus, a Republican strategist based in Madison. “We’re a small state — purple, rather than red or blue — but he seems to have some affection for us.”

As well as for its Super Bowl-bound football team.

“In the spirit of sportsmanship, I wish you good luck in the Super Bowl,” Obama told Wisconsin residents at one of his stops.

There’s almost not a living state Democratic office holder left after that; I exaggerate slightly.

Charles Franklin
Political science professor, University of Wisconsin

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An active ingredient in the chemical dispersants pumped deep into the Gulf of Mexico after BP's oil spill didn't break down but remained for several months in a deep layer of oil and gas, according to a study published Wednesday.

The study finds that concentrations of parts per billion, in sodium sulfosuccinate or DOSS, in the deep water.

Environmental Protection Agency scientists previously reported that they detected no lingering dispersants in waters near shore. Kujawinski, however, said her team used a mass spectrometer that was 1,000 times more sensitive than the method used by the EPA.

"We can see it farther and longer than the EPA can," she said in an interview.

Most toxicity studies of dispersants have assessed their toxicity on small fish and other animals that live in coastal waters, Kujawinski said. Her deep-water study found toxicity levels that were below the limits in three published reports. However, additional studies may be needed to build on the environmental impact on the unique environment and organisms in the deep water.

Some of those studies on corals are underway. "We're just starting to understand how effective the dispersants were in breaking down oil droplets in the deep water," Kujawinski said. She said her team would help scientists design further studies. It was published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology.

The scientists found a key component of the dispersants, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate or DOSS, in concentrations of parts per million in May and June. They found lower concentrations in September, after the well was capped in late May.

Most toxicity studies of dispersants have assessed their toxicity on small fish and other animals that live in coastal waters, Kujawinski said.
Listen up: Coachella Musical Festival returns

(Coachella is) thousands of really happy people stoked to be there watching show after show with all their friends.
— Derek Barbas
Chemistry sophomore

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Award-winning musical ‘Spring Awakening’ shakes up PAC

Katelyn Sweigart
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"Spring Awakening," the award-winning musical about 19th century students discovering their sexuality and morality through teenage exploits and rock 'n roll songs, will come to the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center (PAC) Sunday, Jan. 30.

The original play, written in 1891 by German playwright Frank Wedekind, was adapted into a rock musical — during which the character monologues were replaced with musical numbers — by Duncan Sheik, who wrote the music, and Steven Sater, who wrote the book and lyrics, in 2006.

Even though the performance is a musical, the core of the newer adaptation is just as scandalous as the original play, music professor Alyson McLamore said.

"Even though this play is 100 years old, it still challenges our morals and our values that we have today," McLamore said.

Set in late 19th century Germany, the play follows the lives of young...
While Leman said he does agree the show does contain controversial topics, and the audience should be prepared for things such as brief nudity, he believes it has been tastefully done. "It's a fascinating topic, a conversation starter, lots of fodder for discussion," he said.

Environmental engineering sophomore Sam Dennis also saw the play in Orange County and said the show has a good message. "One of the things I found is that most of their bad decisions are steered by the parents who are kind of making bad decisions on their part," he said.

Sarah Kleeman, who plays the adult women characters in the performance, graduated from San Luis Obispo High School in 1990. Kleeman was very active in local musical theater, including both San Luis Obispo's Little Theatre and SLOSHS productions, as well as being in the school choir. "My dream was to be on Broadway," Kleeman said.

Kleeman said she is very excited to return home and be in a Broadway play. She said San Luis Obispo is "pretty forward thinking" and will "embrace the (performance) wholeheartedly." Everyone will relate to the show somehow, Kleeman said. Kleeman will hold a free pre-show lecture at 6 p.m. in the PAC's Phillips Recital Hall to discuss the musical and, in addition to the adult themes already mentioned, the strong language and adult situations that characterize the play.

"I recommended people try to familiarize themselves with the premise before going in so they aren't doomed to disappointment," Kleeman said. "Because they can't change what the show is — but they can change their reaction to it depending on their expectations."

Tickets are on sale now ranging from $38 to $68 and can be purchased at the PAC Ticket Office, over the phone or online. The show starts at 7 p.m.
Survey tabs LA as rudest city in America

Gregory Rodriguez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

I demand a recount! Or a re-survey! Or some form of redos for the apertures Travel + Leisure magazine has cast not only on the City of Angels but on all of us Angelenos.

The magazine released a survey last week of travelers who, in all their wisdom, concluded that Los Angeles surpasses New York as the rudest city in America.

Excuse me?

My first reaction was fear that I would never again be able to use the rude New Yorker jokes in my already limited humor repertoire — classics like "Excuse me, sir, is the Museum of Modern Art that way, or should I just go bleep myself?". My second reaction was plain old defensiveness. I convinced myself that the respondents to the T+L survey were money-highend travelers who were out-snooded by bellhops and valets — bellhop valets! — at hipster booths like the Mondrian or Chateau Marmont.

But after I cooled down, I started to wonder just exactly the survey was getting at.

With some exceptions, I consider Angelenos to be moderately courte­ous, although a tad insincere. In New York, you get honesty. If New Yorkers can, they're downright helpful. If they can't be bothered, they'll let you know. If they can, they're downright helpful. But if I ever go for a drink at Bar Marmont, I'm pretty sure I'm not tipping the valet.

I got a powerful hit of this bluntness one day years ago when I worked in New York right out of college. I was walking near the corner of 7th Street and Avenue A when I slipped and fell. If the embarrassment wasn't bad enough, I was shocked by the reaction of pass­ers-by. One guy chose to enjoy my misfortune and started applauding. Another fellow, his life evidently directed by the better angels of our nature, offered me his hand.

I've never taken such a public fall in L.A. — at least not physically — but if I trip tomorrow on, say, a sidewalk crack on Wilshire Boule­vard in Koreatown, I don't think I'd receive a hand of applause or help. But a few people might, in passing, ask if I was OK, more for the sake of form than real concern.

That's not exactly rude, but it's not exactly not, either. I think it points to a fundamental lack of a shared civic culture in Los Angeles.

Like New Yorkers we are mostly transplants, but there's a difference. People who come to New York, in all their limited humor repertoire — classics like "Excuse me, sir, is the Museum of Modern Art that way, or should I just go bleep myself?" — are the real deal. People who come to L.A. "are looking for a place where they can be free" — from tradition, the past, even from community. More than NYC, L.A. is a city of disconnected exits.

But I don't know why you would even attempt to write an article about this. You should go out on a weekend to a show, a gathering, and maybe you'd possibly understand what Mr. Roth is talking about in his song. Yes, maybe he is exaggerating a tiny bit, but his song is about having fun and being a typical college student. You come off as extremely pompous and immature but then again, maybe this is just a "Fresh Perspective." Live a little.

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For more information, see page 7
Quarterback Jake Locker's draft stock raises curiosity of NFL teams

Danny O'Neil
THE SEATTLE TIMES

MOBILE, Ala. — The team needs a quarterback. Minnesota's new coach Leslie Frazier was clear about that.

"It's one we've got to really address," he said. "We're one team in our division that doesn't have a concrete starter, and so we're kind of looking up to the rest of our division at that position."

And there was a player in the North team practice Frazier just finishing watching that could be a potential answer. So coach, what did you think of Washington's Jake Locker?

"It's too early to comment on any of the guys that are coming out right now," Frazier said. "There will be a time. Some time in April, on draft day."

San Diego's Norv Turner wasn't any more enlightening on the subject, saying he hadn't seen enough of Locker. San Francisco general manager Trent Baalke just shook his head when asked.

When it comes to the NFL draft, teams tend to be in the business of collecting information for the draft, not distributing it, and a poker face is an important part of preparations.

Locker finished the first audition in his second season with an upward trend, improving after an erratic practice Monday. He showed the arm strength and the athleticism that have been highly regarded, but the question of his accuracy and just where he will be chosen in the draft hasn't nearly been answered.

He is a first-round talent, that much is agreed upon, and it will just take one team to make that a reality. With as many as a quarter of the teams in the league with a clear need at the position, there's going to be plenty of potential suitors with no clear-cut No. 1 quarterback in this class.

A year ago, Tim Tebow came to the Senior Bowl with unprecedented attention, and at that first practice, he bobbled a couple snaps and the concerns about adjusting from the spread offense became criticisms.

Well, he went in the first round, and Locker very well might, too, but it's going to be a long three months of speculation before there's a definitive answer to that question.

Wrestling
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battled to a 8-6 decision in their last meeting in Reno. DesRoches is currently four falls shy of his record, posting 13 pins so far, including one in just 33 seconds.

"I'm not going to let (the desire for a pin) distract me to the point where I lose a match because I'm worried about getting a pin, but it would be cool if I could break the record," DesRoches said. "But it's not the biggest thing. The most important thing is just winning."

Heavyweight Atticus Disney has knocked off two ranked opponents this season, defeating No. 18 Kurt Kilmack of Cal State Fullerton and avenging a loss to Oregon State's No. 12 Clayton Jack on Friday with a 12-6 win. He has yet to be defeated by a major decision as a Mustang, but a win against ASU's No. 18 Levi Cooper would bring much needed points to the squad and even the season series between the wrestlers.

"This weekend showed me that I could wrestle with the best of the nation," Disney said. "But then the match against Boise State highlighted some areas that I need to work on and some weaknesses I still have in my game plan. I think this week is about realizing that I'm up there with the best competition and I need to take a hold of my game plan and patch it up."

The matches against Cal State Bakersfield and Arizona State will be broadcast over the Internet. The Mustangs take on Bakersfield Friday night at 6:30 p.m. in Mott Gym and Arizona State Sunday at 2 p.m.
Mustangs host rival UC Santa Barbara in televised game

**Mustang Daily Staff Report**

UC Santa Barbara lost four times last season. Boasting a stout 12-4 conference record — while also clinching an NCAA Tournament berth — the Gauchos fell to a small handful of teams in route to the Big West Conference crown.

The Mustangs were one of those few teams and, in order to get to where the Gauchos were last season, they will need to prove so again. The Cal Poly men's basketball team (8-10, 4-3 Big West) will fight to stay near the top of the Big West Conference tonight when it faces UC Santa Barbara in Mott Gym.

The game will be the first time the two rival teams have met since their last conference game of the 2010 season. Before a sold out crowd of 3,032, the Mustangs were able to pull out a win, taking the lead with 30 seconds remaining. The 60-57 victory snapped a four-game losing streak for Cal Poly, which had beaten Santa Barbara since it swept the Gauchos in 2007.

In a press conference Monday, head coach Joe Callero said the big game is more than just a rivalry and will have a big impact on a lot of different areas for the team.

"What's great about (the game) is it's a rivalry, but just having a rivalry doesn't make it a better game," Callero said. "It's kind of a triple threat. It's a conference game against a team that's right there, neck and neck with us. We're playing the conference rivalries, the teams we want — an NCAA bid and a championship — and it's a televised game."

The Mustangs cling to second place, only a half game ahead of UC Santa Barbara. Forward Ian Hanson, who leads the Mustangs in the upper half of the conference. But even in second place, remaining in the upper half of the Big West won't be easy. In a tight race for first, No. 8 UC Riverside is only one game behind Cal Poly.

Callero said one of the keys to Cal Poly's success is shutting down Santa Barbara's number one and two scorers, Orlando Johnson and James Nunnally. The Mustangs cling to second place in the conference standing at this point, only a half game ahead of UC Santa Barbara, which is first in the conference, shooting 45.9 percent from the floor and second with a 3-point percentage of 36.2. The Mustangs' defense will have a lot to manage versus UC Santa Barbara, which is first in the conference, shooting 45.9 percent from the floor and second with a 3-point percentage of 36.2. Nunnally and Orlando Johnson are the top two scorers in the entire Big West, Johnson leads all scorers with 19.3 points per game, and Nunnally is second with 18.2 points per game. Johnson is also first in the Big West with a 3-point shooting percent age of 38.9, first in the Big West among players who have taken more than 100 3-pointers and fourth overall.

The Mustangs have been struggling offensively this season. Cal Poly is last in scoring in the Big West Conference, with 55.9 points per game on 37.1 percent shooting. The game will be televised live on KSBY and is set to begin at 7:05 p.m. in Mott Gym. It is the first of two televised games between the teams this season.

**Cal Poly gears up for two Pac-10 duals**

**J.J. Jenkins**

JJEJENKINS.MOSTACAL.COM

Over a stretch of 10 days in three states against three ranked opponents, the Cal Poly wrestling team battled through a roller-coaster of emotions to a 2-1 record, and the Mustangs' schedule is not letting up.

This Friday, the team faces Pac-10 for Cal State Bakersfield, looking to move their dual meet record to 7-1. The Mustangs' only loss coming to No. 3 Boise State on Sunday after defeating No. 26 Oregon State on Friday.

Bakersfield owns only one ranked wrestler on Intermat's top 20 and nearly fell from the site's team rankings as the No. 53 squad, however 157-pounder senior Barrett Abel is far from writing the Roadrunners off. It's an interesting matchup against Bakersfield because as a team they are not as good as Boise State and Oregon State," Abel said. "But technically on paper, they are favored in six of 10 matches. They match up well against us." The two faced each other at the Las Vegas Invitational and Abel dropped a major decision, giving up 19 points, while Smith collecting only 6.

Keeping the match closer on Sunday,Des Roches, who has the Mustangs' only season pin record, has a good opportunity to pick up a win and possibly make a run for an NCAA bid. The Mustangs' defense will have a lot to manage versus UC Santa Barbara, which is first in the conference, shooting 45.9 percent from the floor and second with a 3-point percentage of 36.2. The two faced each other at the Las Vegas Invitational and Abel dropped a major decision, giving up 19 points, while Smith collecting only 6.

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