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Engineering student pays close attention to how things function



DAILY CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

SUNDIAL

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Impacts of new federal budget

Cuts affect financial aid and work study

HANSOOK OH
SENIOR REPORTER

Twelve days have passed since President Barack Obama officially signed the Sequestration Order for Fiscal Year 2013 on the evening of March 1.

The \$85 billion worth of immediate cuts to the federal government – a “doomsday” policy created by Congress and the president as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011 – were initially delayed from Jan. 1 to March 1 by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to give Congress and the Obama administration more time to legislate an alternative strategy to decrease the federal budget.

No resolution was reached and Congress must now make these cuts in the next seven months, according to the White House.

The Congressional Budget Office will decrease spending on domestic programs and the defense budget by \$42.7 billion each, resulting in little over \$85 billion. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 had decreased the sequester from its \$1.2 trillion price tag by \$24 billion.

According to a February report by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), discretionary domestic spending, which includes the budget for the federal Department of Education, will be decreased by 5.3 percent, amounting to \$28.7 billion. The defense budget will be cut by 7.9 percent, excluding cuts to active military personnel.

However, since sequestration was pushed until March 1 and Fiscal Year (FY) 2013



CHARLIE KAIJO / Senior Photographer

CSUN Archery club member Isabel Alagot, a bio-chemistry major, helps new members, Primepissa Honglocksananan, an engineering major, and Freddy Chavez, a sociology major, practice arm motions with the recurve bow.

Archery comes to CSUN

After several requests, the club will have a shooting range installed at the north field on campus

JORGE NERI
DAILY SUNDIAL

After insisting they have a shooting range on campus for four years, the CSUN archery club will now have their own one on the north field of campus between Redwood Hall and the CSUN dorms after its approval the first weekend of March.

Raymond Paguia, 23, archery state champion started the CSUN archery club in 2008 and had been asking for a shooting range on campus since the inception of the club.

“I hope they can see the benefits for the school and the team” Paguia said. “It will benefit CSUN and the community.”

Easton, a company that makes sports equipment, offered to fund the construction of a shooting

range completely free for CSUN and worked with the university to find the best location.

“We are passionate and want to spread the sport. It’s a great sport that anyone can practice, regardless of their body type,” said Don Rabska, vice president of the Easton Foundation.

“It just takes time, it isn’t anyone’s fault,” Rabska said. “They are great to work with.”

June Montegro, archery club coach and archery world champion in 2000, said he is already applying to see if Easton would give them more equipment since they have such high demand of new interested future members.

“I don’t know how much the grant was for, but a shooting range is over \$5,000,” Montegro said.

David Crandall, A.S. general manager, said it was not up to A.S. to approve the request for a shooting range. They have not denied any requests but were working with Anne Glavin, chief of police



CHARLIE KAIJO / Senior Photographer

The CSUN Archery club meets every Saturday at Coach June Montenegro’s home in Northridge. CSUN has recently approved the building of an archery range.

for the CSUN Police Department, and the risk management department to bring one to the CSUN campus.

The decision was left to the CSUN cabinet.

“There are issues of safety. Our staff has been working to see if they can open a range in the north

Weather station aids national reports

Automated system checks temperature, rain fall, wind speed and direction every 15 minutes in four counties

JASON GALLAHER
DAILY SUNDIAL

Just east of the baseball field sits a tall, yet unassuming metal structure. The fenced in slender tower looks like it couldn't be much, but looks can be deceiving. That tower is CSUN's very own weather station, operated by the geography department.

"The weather station records information such as temperature, humidity, dew point, rain fall, wind speed and wind direction," said Tim Boyle, CSUN's geography department weather observer and weather station technician.

This information is recorded by the weather station's automated system every 15 minutes. That data is then sent over to the National Weather Service.

"The data we get from the station ends up in the hourly weather roundup," said Mike Wofford, senior forecaster at the Los Angeles/Oxnard branch of the National Weather Service. "(That) is a

listing of weather stations in and around Southern California, but mostly focusing on our forecasting area which covers LA, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties."

This information in the hourly round up is typically used by local press outlets to create their weather reports. When Northridge information is seen on local news weather segments, that often comes from CSUN.

Information gathered from CSUN's weather station is also used to monitor potentially dangerous weather conditions.

"During strong wind events like Santa Anas we usually issue wind summaries every few hours summarizing the strongest winds across the area," Wofford said. "Northridge tends to be a windy place during Santa Ana's so you will occasionally find (CSUN's) station listed there."

Similarly, information regarding humidity trends is used to help in fire weather forecasting, and precipitation data is used during major rain fall events.

CSUN's weather station has been operating for more than 50 years.

"CSUN has had a weather station since around the 1950s," Boyle said. "In the old days they had to take these weather observations down by hand, but now it's all automated."

Dr. William Bowen, former geography department chair, said he helped switch the station to an automated system in the '80s.

"I was asked by the department chairperson at the time to take on the task of completely rebuilding the system and modernizing it," Bowen said. "I did that using modern digital computers linked to weather instruments on a tall tower atop the Sierra building complex."

This modernization helped the station take fewer resources to operate.

"The initial cost to buy and build a weather station is between \$7,000 and \$10,000," Boyle said. "But after that it only costs about \$500 a year to maintain."

The weather station also takes little energy to power.

"The station itself runs on a 12-volt battery," Boyle said.



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / Daily Sun Dial

The CSUN weather station provides data used by newsrooms for area weather forecasts.

"The networking router that sends out the weather station data needs more power than the station."

The station also has become so self-sufficient that it no longer

needs paid student workers to help maintain it.

"We haven't had student workers since the '80s," Boyle said.

Students do still interact

with the weather station, however, by helping with the maintenance and programming of the station through the geography department's climatology courses.

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BRIEF

USU board of directors hold off on \$4 fee increase

The University Student Union board of directors placed a hold on a fee increase for the 2013-2014 academic year on March 4.

The fee would have been a total of \$4.00 added to each student's tuition for next year.

"The USU had already been approved to implement a one-time \$2.00 operational fee increase and a \$2.00 per year inflation adjustment increase for all students that was to go into effect the fall of 2013," said Vice Chair Demontae Thompson.

The fees would maintain the Debt Service Coverage Ratio, which measures the ability of an organization to meet its annual debt service payment. The Chancellor's Office requires a 1.25 ratio, which means that there is \$1.25 of net income to pay for each dollar of annual debt service.

The February long-term financial plan indicated that because of a conservative budget, the USU is able to delay implementation of the fee.

—CYNTHIA GOMEZ

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Continued from page 1

side of campus," Crandall said.

Since the shooting range was approved, the kinesiology department will help manage the shooting range, and Montenegro will be the only one able to open the field for practice.

"There will be a schedule, and only club members are allowed," Montenegro said. "Crossbow will not be allowed and neither will uncertified equipment."

Pagua, who graduated from CSUN in Fall 2012, said since the emergence of the club, they were forced to practice in a public park where it became dangerous to practice.

Pagua said he had been talking to John Paul Gale, the sports club coordinator for the clubs on campus, to open a shooting range since they started, but it did not happen immediately.

Club practice used to be held at Woodley Park which is about seven miles away from campus. Claire Plauzoles, 20, president of the CSUN archery club, said that practicing at that shooting range was jeopardizing the safety of CSUN students.

Woodley Park was catering to over 200 archers per day. Since it is a public



Coach, June Montenegro, at his archery shed. He has practiced archery for 48 years. He lends his bows, arrows, and gear to the CSUN archery club members to use for practice.

park, no one can reserve the park for practice, and the only place left to shoot was next to the archers shooting at the longest distance possible. Students had arrows flying by just three feet away.

After that problem, Montegro opened the doors of his backyard to welcome the club to practice.


"These are straight-A students that enjoy the sport," said Montegro, adding that students used to ride their scooters to Wood-

ley Park and to his house for practice. He added that he was excited to finally be able to practice on the university's campus.

Plauzoles said said during the Meet the Clubs event, they had 280 new interested members who wanted to join the archery club, which currently has 27 members. The club split the interested students into groups and has started working with the first 60 students.

CORRECTION


In the article "Students enjoy club vibe at Neon Nights," the next Neon Nights event is on April 4, not April 14 as stated in the story.




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Continued from page 1

starts on Oct. 1, cuts must be administered over seven months instead of 12 months. The OMB sent a report to Congress on March 1 explaining that the shorter time period will increase the real percentages of cuts to 9 percent for non-defense programs and 13 percent for defense programs.

According a White House fact sheet on the sequester's projected impacts on education in California, about 9,600 fewer low-income students would receive financial aid due to cuts to the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and around 3,690 fewer students obtain employment due to the cuts to the Federal Work Study (FWS) program.

However, another state-by-state report published Feb. 5 by the National Education Association stated that while funding to the FSEOG would decrease to almost \$4 million, up to 169,420 students could be affected. FWS would be decreased by a little over \$5 million and affect 60,780 students.

Federal Pell grants or and loans are protected from the discretionary funding sequester, but federal student loan origination fees would be raised by 5.1 percent to offset that protection. Undergraduate Stafford loans

will be raised from the current 1 percent to 1.051 percent.

Lili Vidal, director of the financial aid and scholarship department, previously told the Sundial that sequestration would cut funds from FSEOG and FWS funding for the 2012-13 school year. However, Vidal said in an email that the sequestration will not affect FWS programs until 2013-14.

"We expect that our tentative funding that we have already received notice of will be cut by approximately 5.1 percent," Vidal said. "The possible good news is that our tentative allocations for these programs were increased for 2013-14 and the sequestration cut may still leave us a little ahead of the 2012-13 allocation we received this year. But nothing is known for sure until we receive our final allocation for 2013-14 and no one knows when that will be."

Vidal said that as usual, her office will include language in award notices warning students that their financial aid may be reduced if federal, state or institutional funding levels change.

According to the White House fact sheet, the state's K-12 public schools will lose \$87.6 million in funding and around 1,210 teacher and aide jobs would be put at risk.

The fact sheet stated that "187,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 320 fewer schools would receive funding."

California's Head Start and Early Head Start programs, a federal program which pro-



President Obama addresses Congress about budget cuts the federal government will face.

COURTESY OF Met

vides education and resources for low-income children under the age of five, would be out of reach for about 8,200 children in California.

The NEA estimated reductions in California's K-12 spending would affect about 179,000 students and present only 848 potential job losses. The report stated that while Head Start programs would

see a \$49 million funding loss, only 5,330 students would be affected.

The report highlighted that nearly \$63 million would be cut to special education funding, affecting almost 31,000 students.

According to Los Angeles Unified School District spokesperson, Monica Carazo, LAUSD has no definite strategy yet for administering budget

cuts, but said that the decrease in funding will hurt schools in the highest need and low poverty areas.

Carazo did not name any specific schools who serve these areas. The school district is one of the largest in the nation, spanning across 710 square miles, and receives about \$1 billion in federal funding every year according to Carazo.

She said that LAUSD's budget has to be presented to the Los Angeles County Office of Education by May and the district hopes that the sequester will be reversed or changed before then.

"There has been no mention about cutting teachers in the 2013-14 year," Carazo said. "We hope it doesn't come to that."

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MARCH 12, 2013

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Opinion

Lower hopes for higher learning

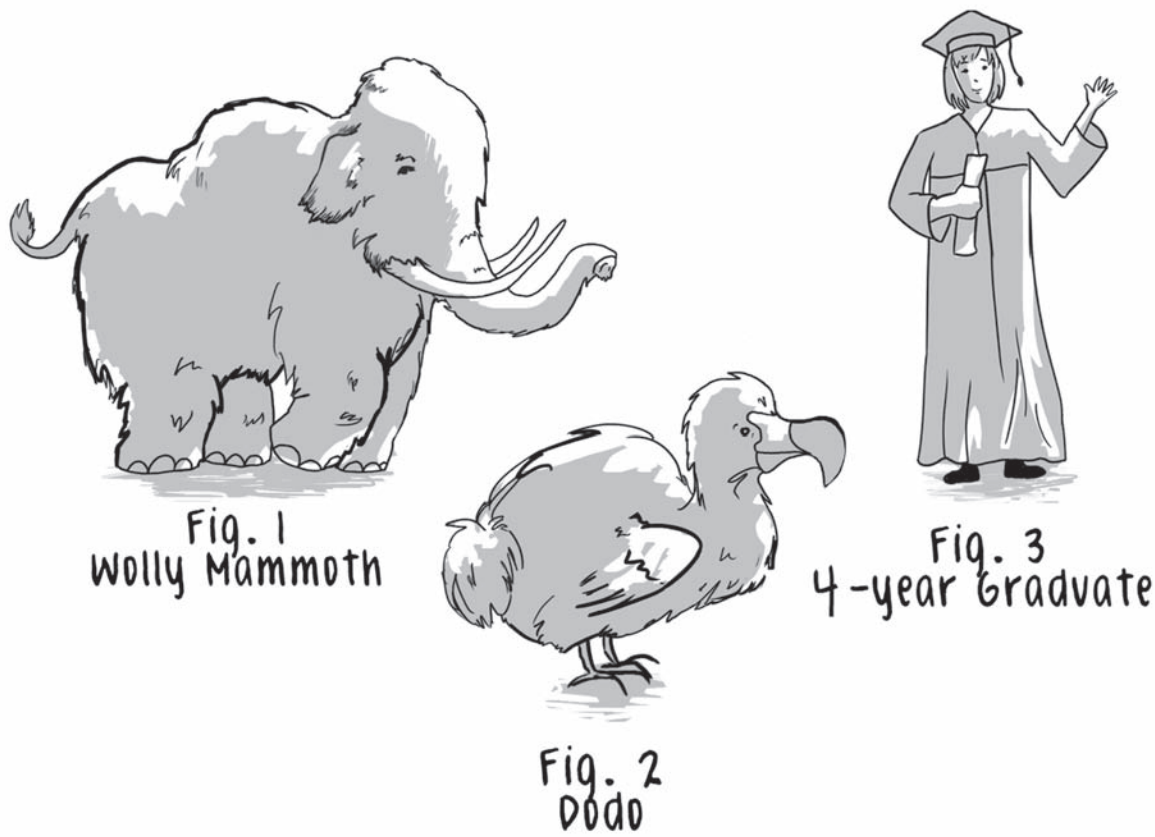


ILLUSTRATION AND GRAPH BY Sundial Production

MICHELLE REUTER
DAILY SUNDIAL

Oh, the myth of the four-year college degree.

While many anecdotes about education prices going up permeate our campus life, a new study shows that the feeling holds some weight in reality. On average, about half of undergrad students in the U.S. manage to earn a degree in six years. Consequently, the four-year graduate is going the way of the unicorn and leprechaun. The end result is an unmotivated person with a major misstep in life when they jump-start a career post college.

According to a new report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, only about half of students enrolled in an undergraduate program in the U.S. in 2006 had graduated by 2012. The rates were a little better for California. The total completion rate for the golden state was about 66 percent. Almost 20 percent of students were still enrolled after the six-year mark and just under 15 percent had given up and dropped out. Sixty-five percent is better than the national average of 50 percent, but any student can see, that's still a "D" average.

Apparently, Ds still get degrees.

Then there's this fun little analytic study put out by the California State University Graduation Rates Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (yeah, that's a mouthful). Let's just use the acronym they have on the website, CSRDE. They track retention rates at all the CSU schools over a 10-year period and show the results year by year. If you look at the graduation rates after six years, it gets fairly dismal. For the whole CSU system, the six-year graduation rate is 51.3 percent. Ouch. That same number for our campus is (drum-roll, please....) 46.1 percent. Double ouch.

Fs don't get degrees.

The reality is that it's just taking us much longer to finish a degree program. Life happens. Money is tight. Many students must work while they go to college. All those hours flipping burgers and answering phones means less time for class. Some of us run into unforeseen problems and take a semester off here and there. Health issues can strike out of the blue and leave no other choice but a lighter class load or taking a break. Returning students are usually squeezing in night classes between a 50-hour work week and family obligations. And sometimes the system adds barriers like, say, an aggressively stunting 13-unit cap per semester.

In the Fall 2012, a new rule went into effect for students at CSUN. We could no longer sign up for more than 13 units in a semester during our registration appointments. Thirteen became the magic number for class units the powers-that-be felt we should be taking in a semester. This was, of course, due to budget constraints and financial pressures being put on the system from our state government.

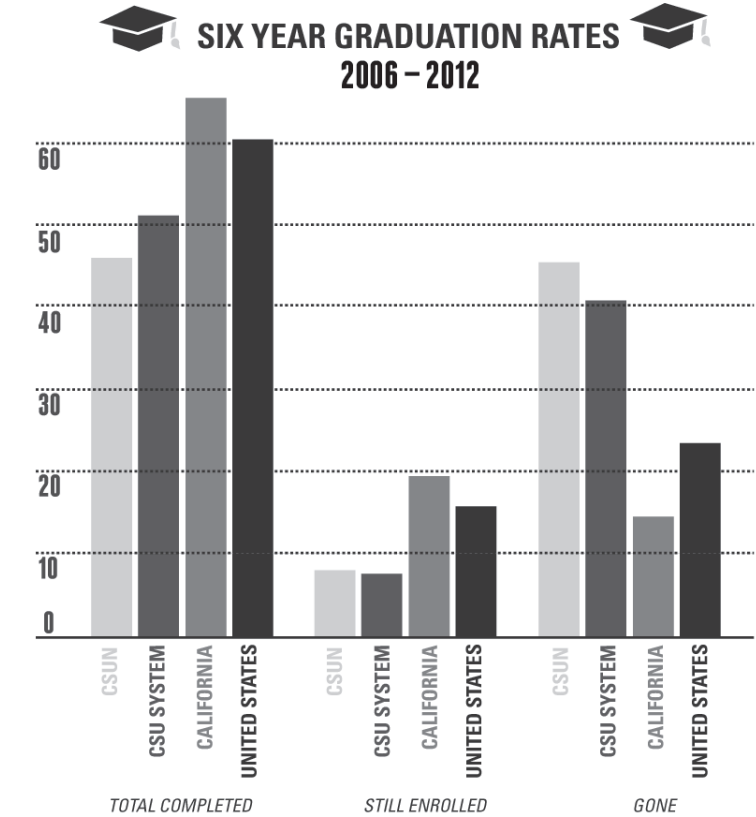
Now, I'm from the dark ages and all, being a lady over the age of 30, but I recall a time when 15 units was considered an acceptable, full load of classes at college. Now we can't even register for those needed units until after open enrollment starts. And by then, it's usually a long shot involving a broken waitlist and a classroom kicking, biting and punching-fest.

All these numbers can make our heads hurt. Here's a little word problem from back in the day to help:

Question: If Boyd needs 120 units to earn his undergraduate degree in advanced duck calls, how many units must he take per semester to graduate in four years?

Answer: 15 units. (15 units times two semesters a year is 30, 30 units a year times four years is 120. Yes? Yes.)

Question: If the school has capped enrollment to 13 units a



INFORMATION COURTESY OF National Student Clearinghouse Research Center AND California State University Graduation Rates Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange

semester, how will Boyd graduate in four years.

Answer: He won't.

Of course, there is the option of taking courses in the summer session to make up those lost four units. But summer classes are not free. More student loan money must be taken out, more debt accrued.

And speaking of debt, we have to pay back all those educational loans whether we actually got an education or not. Uncle Sam wants his money back and he doesn't care if life got in the way and we never actually earned that degree. So, the rising cost of education becomes as much about higher tuition rates as it does the greater amount of time we spend in school. I'm no math major, but I know four is less than six. Our education would cost considerably less if we could get it done in four years. Oh, the joy of NOT filling out yet another FAFSA form to apply for yet another student loan!

According to the American Student Association, there is a ton of student debt floating around out there. Some estimates have the total amount of student loan debt in this country as high as a trillion dollars and people are having a hard time paying it back. The people who struggle the most are ones who, even after six years, never got to finish their degree. There were

33 percent of borrowers who left without a degree between 2004 and 2009 and ended up being delinquent on their loans. Another 26 percent defaulted. That can really hurt our credit scores. Student debt cannot be wiped out with a bankruptcy and the government has ways of getting its money back.

So, what is a hard-working student to do? It feels like the system is against us in many respects. We can't rely on support from the government funds of old, and life is always waiting with a nasty little curve ball just when you think you've got shit figured out. Still, there is a light at the end of this extended, six-year-long hallway. People do walk across that stage every year and collect their pretty piece of paper. I've seen it! Maybe this race is more about endurance than speed, more about a little sacrifice than a party every weekend. At least when you get that degree, you'll know you achieved a goal almost half of college seniors in this country might not see. And that's not half-bad.

Michelle Reuter has been working on earning her very own pretty piece of paper for about six years now. She tries not to think about student loans laying in wait after graduation this May.

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PERSPECTIVES

Student sees engineering in everything

Logic and the way in which devices function dominate a mechanical engineering major's view of the world

AGNES CONSTANTE
FEATURES EDITOR

When Melissa Flores looks at bathroom stall doors, she doesn't just see a door.

"I see the bolts and hinges that hold the door in position and I think about all the x, y and z reaction forces that those parts need to exert in order for the door to stay stationary," she said.

At the age of 20, Flores is a fifth-year mechanical engineering student. She graduated from high school at 16, attended Moorpark College, transferred to UC San Diego to pursue aerospace engineering, and then came to CSUN in the Fall 2011.

Because of her studies in this field, she pays more attention than most to how things function.

"Have you ever thought about how a microwave works? It even amazes me how complicated things are that we use everyday like it's

nothing," she said. "You just push a button and it works. Someone had to invent it."

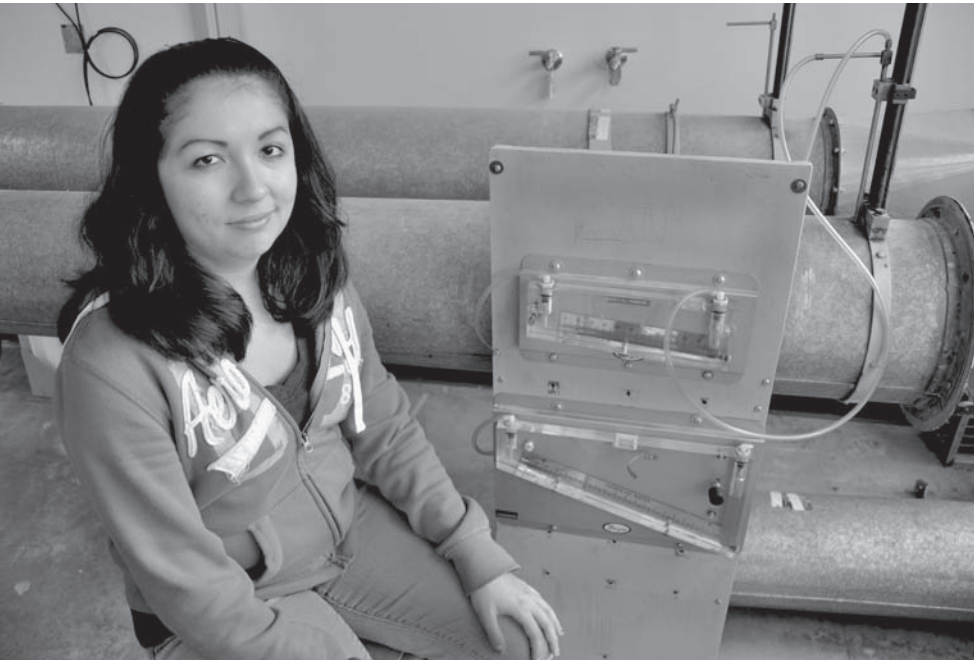
Flores has always had a knack for science and math and holds an interest in robotics. She didn't always know she wanted to pursue mechanical engineering, but her brother-in-law graduated from CSUN in the field.

"I guess him doing it pushed me in that direction," she said.

For most of the week, Flores spends 12 hours a day on campus. She spends the bulk of her time in the computer lab at Jacaranda Hall and in class. And in between, she grabs lunch with her engineering peers.

In addition to the time she spends in class and studying at CSUN, she also volunteered to develop a human powered vehicle, one of the four senior design projects for mechanical engineering students. The vehicle is a bike that is designed, analyzed, finalized and produced by these students, Flores said.

The bike will be entered in a competition hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in April.



HANSOOK OH/ Senior reporter

Melissa Flores, 20, a mechanical engineering major, volunteers to work on various engineering projects and machines at CSUN.

After attaining her bachelor's degree, Flores hopes to attend grad school at CSUN or UCLA. Someday, she would like to work on stealth and fighter planes in the military.

Outside of class, Flores serves as the webmaster for the university's chapter of the American Society of

Mechanical Engineers, and is involved with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

"I get frustrated sometimes when I see my friends who have more time than I do hanging out, and I'm stuck doing homework and studying for midterms, but at the end I hope it'll work out," she said.

Because she spends much of her time with other engineering students, most of Flores' friends come from that field.

"We see engineering in everything we look at. We'll see buildings and we'll comment on stuff, or we'll see bolts on things and we comment on the size of the bolts,

or how a chair could be made more efficiently," she said.

The devices and networks enabling human communication are also aspects of the world Flores finds interesting.

"I'm fascinated by the way the Internet works and how something that we can't physically touch works so that we can communicate and share things all around the world," she said.

And when it comes to cell phones and computers, she thinks about the little pieces inside that allow them to serve as communication devices.

"I think about the circuit board that is inside the phone or computer and wonder what kind of components it is made out of: resistors, capacitors, inductors, op-amps," she said.

Along with paying close attention to how things work, Flores' perspective on decision-making has been influenced by her studies in mechanical engineering.

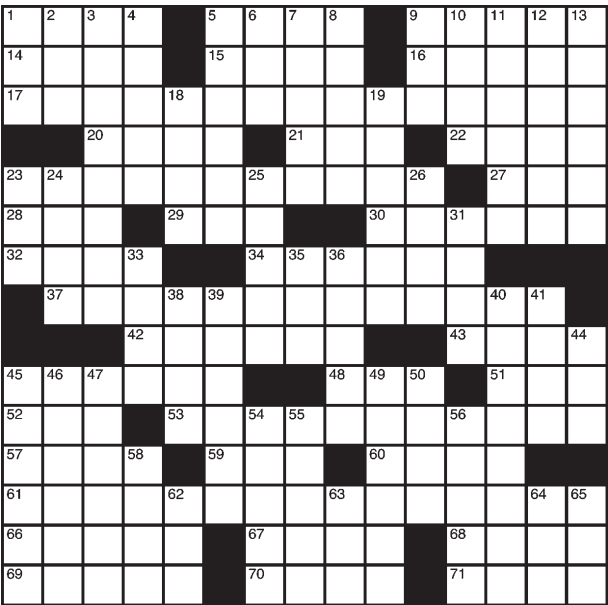
"I think most engineers are really logical as opposed to using their emotions to make decisions in life. It's just present in all our classes, to do things the logical way as opposed to what you feel," she said.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Zion National Park's state
- 5 "Liquid diet" drinkers
- 9 Low-prestige position
- 14 Actress Rogers
- 15 Front of the boat
- 16 River in Lyons
- 17 Prime hours for television broadcasters
- 20 Snorkeling spot
- 21 Quaint "before"
- 22 Scissors sound
- 23 Down in the dumps
- 27 Scrape together, with "out"
- 28 Googler's success
- 29 Skinny Olive
- 30 Transferred, as property
- 32 Small amount
- 34 GM navigation system
- 37 "Greetings, Paddy!"
- 42 List of corrections
- 43 Created, as a web
- 45 Jim of "Liar, Liar"
- 48 Dreamer's acronym
- 51 Dedicated lines?
- 52 Conquistador's treasure
- 53 Moonshine, or a soda named for it
- 57 Connecting point
- 59 Game with Skip and Reverse cards
- 60 Show one's pearly whites
- 61 Conduct observed during international negotiations
- 66 Delta rival, as it used to be called
- 67 Southernmost Great Lake
- 68 Top draft status
- 69 Debussy's "slow"
- 70 Studio payment
- 71 More-caloric egg part



By Bruce Venzke and Gail Grabowski

3/12/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S T A S H A S K S C A B S
H O R N E G A I L I D O L
E Y E O F A H U R R I C A N E
S A W B A L K T A M E D
D Y E S C E D A R S
O H P R E T T Y W O M A N
H U R O N A V I S D A B
S T E P M A H A L C E C E
O T C L E N O J A V A S
U S E I T O R L O S E I T
C A R T O N O A T H
S U S A N C N B C C U M
P R O M I S S O R Y N O T E S
A A R P K I L O S W A M I
N E S S I S A Y A S H E N

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3/12/13

DOWN

- 1 "Stee-e-rike!" caller
- 2 Accessory with a Windsor knot
- 3 Liqueur sometimes used in amandine sauce
- 4 Backpackers' outings
- 5 All gussied up
- 6 Forty-niner's pay dirt
- 7 Beach bring-along
- 8 Marble cake pattern
- 9 Flavor-enhancing additive
- 10 Maine Coon and Manx
- 11 Signed up for
- 12 Ready for recording
- 13 Alerted, in a way
- 18 Legislative turn-down
- 19 Must
- 23 Ill. metropolis
- 24 Laugh-a-minute type
- 25 Wahine's greeting
- 26 In the vicinity
- 31 Coastal divers
- 33 Mimic
- 35 Hoops dangler
- 36 Shrewd
- 38 City near Provo
- 39 Beta-test
- 40 Little music player
- 41 Not decent, so to speak
- 44 Still in the package
- 45 Government official working overseas
- 46 Inspire, as curiosity
- 47 Former NBAer Dennis
- 49 Predatory hatchling
- 50 Surrealist Joan
- 54 Less than
- 55 Bête
- 56 "Star Trek" co-star of Shatner
- 58 Radiate
- 62 Anger
- 63 Tailor's fastener
- 64 Toon collectible
- 65 Talk and talk

Classified Ads

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free group meditation every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (10:30 a.m.) in Northridge. Beginning and experienced meditators welcomed. Confirm interest at meditation-forthesoulCA@gmail.com.

EMPLOYMENT

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Solution to today's sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 7 | 1 | | | | 5 | 3 |
| | 3 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | | | | 2 | | 7 | |
| | | | 4 | | 7 | | | |
| | | 9 | 6 | 7 | | | | |
| | | 3 | | 1 | | | | |
| 2 | 1 | | | | | 9 | 6 | |
| | | | | | | 4 | | |
| 6 | 4 | | | 3 | 8 | | | |

Puzzle number : 71538827

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sudoku

How to play:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Solution above.



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CSUN sporting events

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Matadors ready for playoff push

Northridge squares off against UC Davis in the Big West Conference tournament for a chance to advance

BOB GARCIA
DAILY SUNDIAL

The Matadors (15-15, Big West 9-9) begin their postseason schedule as a sixth seed in the Big West conference tournament Tuesday with a game against the seventh-seeded UC Davis Aggies (12-17, 4-14) at UC Irvine’s Bren Events Center.

Northridge split its two games against the Aggies this year, losing on Jan. 17 at UC Davis 61-46 and winning Feb. 16 51-49 at the Matadome on a buzzer-beating layup by sophomore guard Ashlee Guay.

“We are excited to be in the conference tournament and It’s going to be a challenge to play against a well-coached UC Davis team,” said head coach Jason Flowers. “I have tremendous respect for Jen (Gross, UC Davis head coach) and what she has done with a program. The game is going to be a challenge and we are looking forward to it.”

CSUN finished the regu-

lar season winning its last two games at home, defeating Cal State Fullerton 72-44 on March 7, and squeezing by UC Riverside 55-54 on another last-second layup by Guay Saturday night.

The Matadors will face a tough UC Davis team, ranked fourth in scoring in the Big West with 59.5 points per game and first in 3-point attempts, while shooting .307 from behind the arc.

“What it’s going to come down to is execution. The team that is most disciplined on the defensive end understands what they need do on every single possession,” Flowers said. “In (the Aggies) case, what’s just as important as the 3-pointers are the back door cuts, post ups and penetration they get out of it because you are so concerned about (them) getting out on 3-pointer. I think they do other things that are just as threatening as their 3-pointers.

The Matadors rank fifth in points allowed in the conference at 58.9 points per game and the Aggies rank seventh, allowing 59.3 points per game.

Guay was recently selected by College Sports Mad-



FILE PHOTO/DAILY Sun DIAL

Sophomore guard Janae Sharpe drives around a UCSB defender using a pick set by senior forward Violet Alama.

ness as Big West All-Conference First Team and by the Big West as a member of All-Conference Second Team, the only Matador picked by either outlet.

“She has come in here from day one and worked extremely hard,” Flowers said. “She has proved to a lot

of people that she deserves to not only be at this level but to be a very good basketball player at this level. She is woman who embodies everything that is right with being a student athlete. She’s extremely competitive and it’s good to see that her hard work has paid off and is being

recognized by other people.”

UC Davis team features one Big West first team player in sophomore forward Sydnee Fipps, one honorable mention player in senior guard Cortney French, and two All-Freshman team players in forward Alyson Doherty and guard Molly Greubel.

Playing in their second consecutive Big West tournament, Northridge is looking to avenge last seasons early exit on an upset by seventh seeded Long Beach State.

If the Matadors win the conference tournament they will clinch an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

COLUMN

Surging Lakers will clinch sixth seed

KEVIN’S COURT



kevin ki Ani
DAILY SUNDIAL

The playoff hunt in the wild wild western conference is heating up and with the first five seeds essentially sewn up, who will take six through eight?

8th seed Golden State Warriors

It’s a shame this young, rejuvenated team has been playing so poorly as of late. They have

lost 12 of their last 17 contests and the games they have won have been ugly. Andrew Bogut, the coveted center they traded for has been a shadow of his former self and that has translated to a seven foot immobile oaf who is more of a liability than an advantage. The Warriors need elevated play out of Klay Thompson and Harrison Barnes, as well their bench duo of Carl Landry and Jarrett Jack to break their slump. Golden State lives and dies by the three so if sharpshooters Stephen Curry and Thompson can get hot, they will live and live long. They will play 12 of their last 18 games at home and their remaining opponents sit at an average winning percentage of just under .500. The Warriors are clinging to this playoff spot with their dear lives, so maybe the fans at Oracle can revitalize them during the final stretch of the season.

7th seed Houston Rockets

The Rockets have been led by the unleashed talent and beard of all-star James Harden.



COURTESY OF MCT

Houston Rockets’ shooting guard James Harden (left) defends against the Dallas Mavericks’ O.J. Mayo at American Airlines Center on Wednesday, March 6, in Dallas.

Nobody thought they would even be close to this position considering their youth, inexperience and lack of talent, but head coach Kevin McHale has the Rockets ready to launch into the playoff atmosphere. Houston can create matchup

nightmares when they spread the floor with shooters and force teams to downsize. Harden will most likely will be reunited with his old mates in Oklahoma City in the first round. The Rockets have five players averaging double fig-

ures, and that depth is very valuable in playoff series that looks to have offense written all over it. Houston will play six of its last 18 games on the road and if they can get hot towards the end of the season, they can be a dangerous playoff team.

6th seed Los Angeles Lakers

The dysfunctional daytime soap opera that is the Lakers has officially pushed through the drama and got back to their winning tradition. After their win against Chicago over the weekend, they overtook the Jazz and are now in the eighth seed. Since being eight games under .500 in late January, the Lakers have gone 16-6 since then and have now caught fire. They are winning games on the road, at home, and making miraculous comebacks because of the immortal Kobe Bryant. Bryant has slapped father time in the face and told him to come back when he stops putting up his ridiculous numbers and actually shows signs that he is slowing down. Bryant is averaging 33.2 points on 50 percent shooting in the past five games and has earned him the nickname “vino” because like wine, he is getting better with age. Any team that is unlucky enough to face the venom of the Black Mamba in the first round will be on high upset alert.