

Tower Card gets an upgrade

Alex Wara
Staff Writer

SJSU students and faculty will notice a difference in the campus Tower Card this semester.

As of January, SJSU has partnered with U.S. Bank to give students an option of becoming a member of the U.S. Bank to access their bank accounts through the new card.

Students have the option of getting the Tower Card, which is used for things on campus such as gold points and a VTA pass, or upgrading to the Tower Card Maxx.

"If the student decides to be a U.S. Bank member they can upgrade the card to Tower Card Maxx," said university Bursar Marlene Anderson.

"It has the same functionality as a Tower Card when regarding campus, but is a fully functional ATM debit card with the Visa logo, so they can take it and use it anywhere," Anderson said.

"I didn't get the Tower Card Maxx because I am still a little hesitant," said a freshman psychology major Isabel Magana.

"Maybe after a few years I would get it, if it seems to work out for other students," Magana said.

The Tower Card Maxx requires a five-year contract with U.S. Bank and the bank will be putting on classes for any interested students to take, said David Machado, a manager at U.S. Bank.

"We will be doing educational series of classes about how to maintain a checking account, and protecting yourself from identity theft," he said.

Along with classes there will be a U.S. Bank representative in the Bursar's Office every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for any questions students may have.

The cost of re-carding students was covered by the signing bonus that SJSU received when partnering with the bank. The card will only be distributed at the bursar's office for security reasons, Anderson said.

The campus has signed up about 250 students since the start of the program and more than 2,000 students have picked up their cards.

The cost of the new card is free to students but will cost \$5 for a replacement. If a student has a Tower Card Maxx, the replacement will be free because it is an ATM card.

Students who leave SJSU can have their card transferred over to a regular bank card with U.S. Bank.

Part of the partnership with U.S. Bank also includes having two U.S. Bank ATMs installed, one at the Event Center and one at the Student Union.

The Tower Card has already been issued to students who live on campus and the cards that have not been picked up can be picked at the bursar's office.

Students who live off campus will have the cards mailed to them during the week of Feb. 7. Any cards that are not received can be picked up at the bursar's office during the following week. VTA passes will be mailed out to everyone as well.

As of March 6, all of SJSU students' gold points will be switched over and on March 7, SJSU and VTA will only be accepting the new Tower Card and Tower Card Maxx.



Photo Courtesy: sjsu.edu

Tower Cards are getting a makeover this spring. They can be found in the mail in February.

Bursar seeks to streamline refund process for students

Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

San Jose State's eRefund program was renamed Direct Deposit, but one thing hasn't changed — the program can still save students and the school a significant amount of money.

Direct deposit allows students to have refunds owed to them by SJSU deposited directly into a bank account rather than sent by paper check.

Not all students know the difference, or that the option exists at all, and SJSU Bursar Marlene Anderson aims to change that.

"I have a real passion about this," Anderson said. She said SJSU could potentially save \$100,000 annually by cutting the expenses of processing paper checks.

The Bursar's Office charges students \$20 for each paper check issued, most of which is labor costs for the various departments at SJSU that paper checks must pass

through before they are issued, Anderson said.

"Let's say we withhold \$20, once a year. We've withheld up to \$100 they could have had," she said.

Besides saving the school money, direct deposit is also faster for students.

While paper checks are issued only once a week, direct deposit is sent out three times a week. This means that students can get financial aid payments much sooner than by paper check.

Some students never get their refunds at all — Peter Siegel, director of accounting services at SJSU, said \$650,000 in uncashed checks have accumulated since 2006.

Siegel said most of the money is from checks sent to vendors who provide services on the campus, but some of it belongs to students.

He said the Chancellor's Office is working on a general policy for how leftover funds should be used.

WORLD NEWS

Egyptian unrest leads to violence and looting in Cairo neighborhoods



Photo Courtesy: MCT

The streets of Cairo, Egypt, were filled with celebration on Jan. 29, as news of changes in the government were announced. Instances of looting have also been reported in the nation's capital.

Hannah Allam
McClatchy Tribune

CAIRO — Egypt's vast popular revolt has transformed this cosmopolitan capital into an urban battlefield, where the smell of smoke hangs in the air and residents walk through ransacked shopping in search of bread.

On Sunday, the roar of fighter jets overhead drowned out the chants of thousands of protesters, who again defied curfew to gather downtown in hopes of toppling President Hosni Mubarak, whose regime many Egyptians already refer to in past tense.

As Mubarak clings to his office, and the military attempts to restore order, Egyptians are taking stock of the toll so far: At least 150 dead nationwide, hundreds injured in riots, millions of dollars in property damage and a security vacuum filled by ragtag neighborhood watch groups.

Virtually the entire country — with a population of more than 80 million — remains cut off from the world, with no Internet and poor phone service.

State television announced that Mubarak's police force would return soon, but on Sunday it was still the more popular military offering any semblance of order. Army tanks rumbled through tree-lined residential

areas, offering a much-needed break to exhausted families that had stood guard all night to keep looters away.

For now, it appears the people are willing to pay this price for an end to 30 years of Mubarak's autocracy, though a worsening of the crisis could leave them more preoccupied with finding food than marching against the regime.

An elderly bespectacled Egyptian man strolled down a street Sunday in the shopping district of Mohandiseen, with a newspaper under his arm. He stopped abruptly in front of the burned-out offices of contracting company. The man unfolded his paper and gasped: He was standing in front of the building on the front page.

The business was one of dozens targeted by looters on Shehab Street this week. A single keyboard was all that remained at a computer shop, and only a few tangled cords were left in a cell phone outlet. Robbed of their clothes, mannequins stood naked in boutique storefronts.

Children wrote their names in the fresh white paint shopkeepers applied their windows to conceal the merchandise inside. Other business owners went further, laying brick walls so thick that their stores disappeared from sight.

Of all the antiquities at Egypt's National Museum, Ahmed Abdel Mowlah loved the King Tut collection best. He came every week for his college course on artifacts restoration and marveled at how advanced this ancient civilization was in science, law and the arts.

"The pharaohs set a foundation for us to build on, but unfortunately, we've destroyed it," Abdel Mowlah, 23, said Sunday.

Just behind him, Egyptian military tanks guarded his beloved museum, which had been damaged by looters in the unrest of the past week. "Down with Mubarak!" and other slogans were spray-painted across the museum's red walls.

Antiquities officials appeared on television saying that only a rapid military response saved the world's most precious collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts. Even so, two mummies were destroyed, the glass was broken on some exhibition cases, and some small statues were missing.

When Abdel Mowlah heard that the looters had broken into the museum, he was distraught. He cursed the "backward thugs" who damaged their own national treasures.

"This is the heritage of this country, it's us, it's me," he said, his eyes wet. "I never imagined it would be attacked."

"We're not just supposed to sit on it indefinitely — we're supposed to use it in some way that will benefit the students," Siegel said.

Siegel said students can always reclaim their money from the Bursar's office if they have documentation.

"We always keep a reserve for students and vendors who claim their money," Siegel said.

see **DEPOSIT** page 2

CORRECTIONS

- In the *Spartan Daily's* "This Day In History" section the date was supposed to be Jan. 26, 2006, not Jan. 26, 1992.
- In the story "King Library exhibit highlights women's suffrage movement," the photos were taken from the nearby "Dream Rocket Exhibit."

WEATHER



Winter Brews Festival warms chilly season

Festival attracts beer connoisseurs from around the Bay.

A&E, PAGE 4



Women's water polo takes four wins in Spartan Invitational

Spartans start season with dominating wins.

SPORTS, PAGE 6



The Spartan Daily will return on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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San Jose councilman brings City Hall experience to political course

Alex Wara
Staff Writer

This semester students in the political science department will be able to learn from a current politician.

San Jose City Council member Sam Liccardo will be teaching a section of local politics.

Currently representing the city district that SJSU is in, Liccardo said he is ready to let students have a perspective from a politician's point of view.

"I have been interested in the idea for sometime," he said. "I think I can bring real world experiences because I am that person that has been in the trenches and recognizes the changes at all levels of the government."

The political science department expressed interest in Liccardo as well when he mentioned he would be interested

in the position.

After a few meetings with the department they were eager and excited to have him onboard, said political science professor Terry Christensen.

Political science majors are using this opportunity to have the insights to what it is like inside the world of politics from someone who lives it everyday, said Domingo Juan, a junior political science major.

"I decided to take his class because I have never taken a class taught by a politician or former politician," Juan said. "I believe he can give us a different view of politics because he is still in the political field."

The idea of having Liccardo come on board with the department started a year ago when Liccardo brought up his desires to teaching the course, Christensen said.

"So when there was an open-

ing this semester the department thought that it would be a good match," Christensen said.

Liccardo said he received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University then went on to Harvard University to receive a Master's degree in public policy and a law degree. The idea of teaching was always lingering in his mind because his sister was a teacher.

Liccardo said his goal is to engage students to actively take part in the issues that they care about in politics by writing op-eds or speaking at a city council meeting.

He plans on bringing in guest speakers and taking a trip to city hall to help engage students in the political process. He also wants to give students the opportunities to not only learn about politics but to live it.

Liccardo will not be the first

politician to teach a section of the course, said Christensen. The SJSU political science department has had a long tradition of bringing politicians into the classroom to teach.

Former councilwoman Cindy Chavez and former assemblyman Fred Keeley have taught the local politics class as well.

"Each practitioner has unique experiences that they bring to the course," Christensen said. "It's a good way for people outside of the campus to have a better understanding of students and their workloads as well as the workload that a professor has."

Liccardo said he is already aware of how busy his schedule will be by having to manage teaching a class and working at city hall.

"I am not holding back this semester. I am ready to defer sleep until June," he added.

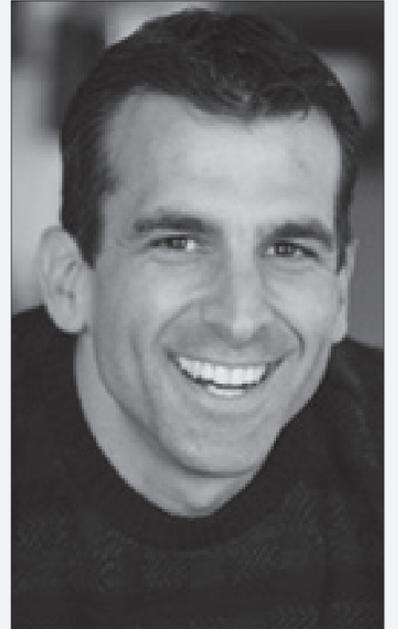


Photo Courtesy: Samuel Liccardo

Councilman Samuel Liccardo is teaching local politics this semester at San Jose State University.

SJSU professor aids in discovery of new planet

Ron Gleeson
Staff Writer

SJSU Professor Natalie Batalha and a team of NASA scientists have discovered what they believe is a new planet in another solar system.

NASA announced on Jan. 10, that the Kepler mission discovered its first rocky planet, named Kepler-10b, which is 1.4 times the size of Earth and the smallest planet discovered outside our own solar system, according to the NASA website.

Casey Mott, a junior business-management major, said the discovery is quite fascinating.

"Any breakthrough or discovery that humans can make

in space is extremely important because of the economic opportunity and potential that the new planet can bring to Earth," Mott said. "Each discovery has the opportunity to become a new frontier to more unknown discoveries."

Professor Batalha served as deputy science team lead and has been working on the project for more than 11 years, even before it was funded by NASA.

"The Kepler is a space telescope that orbits the sun by following the Earth and focuses on one portion of space and looks for changes in dimness in the stars," she said.

According to Batalha, she and her team surveyed a group of more than 150,000 stars every 30 minutes for a period of three years and

looked for changes in dimness called "transits" which could mean a body of mass is crossing over and blocking the light from the star.

"When we see a change in dimness, we study this occurrence and see if it happens periodically," Batalha said. "This can tell us the size and orbital period of the planet."

Batalha then explained the technical terms for the process her team takes.

"A Doppler measurement is then taken which uses a method called transit photometry, which measures the movement of the planet when it is either moving toward or away from the telescope while in orbit and gives us the mass of the planet," Batalha said.

"It gives consistent measurement of the movement

of the planet and by using astero-seismology to determine the mass and the volume, it can in turn give us the density of the planet," Batalha added.

The density of Kepler 10-b was determined to be 8, a much denser planet than Earth, which has a density of 5, Batalha said.

This piece of information told Batalha and her teammates that this planet they discovered is made of a rocky

substance, she explained.

"Because we know the star properties, the radius and mass of the planet, and with little known errors, we know the density of the planet," Batalha said. "All the pieces of the puzzle to find the characteristics of this planet were equally important, and it included top technologies and a type of astero-seismology that was never used before."

Wil Reinbach, a freshman

pre-nursing major, fears over-spending in space programs.

"Discovering a new planet is interesting, but we should focus on spending money on life that we know exists here on Earth," Reinbach said.

Batalha said the Kepler team hopes to work together in the future, and is planning on issuing a news release today to present a catalog of planet candidates that have been detected by the team.

DEPOSIT

From Page 1

Anderson said the name change is a marketing decision, since most banks have similar "direct deposit" programs, but there have been other changes to the program as well.

eRefunds were suspended last July after SJSU's contract with the vendor of the eRefunds program was terminated.

From July to December, check processing fees were waived for all students whether they were enrolled in eRefunds or not, but starting this semester, students will have to enroll to avoid the fees.

While the old system was managed by a third party, the new system is managed through the school using PeopleSoft, the same software that powers My SJSU.

One consequence of this is that students' bank information is now stored along with class

schedules, transcripts and other records available to students through My SJSU.

Mike Dunefsky, senior director of administrative systems at SJSU, said employees at SJSU only have access to the information that directly concerns their jobs. He said nobody but the bank issuing the direct deposit refund has access to students' individual account information.

Dunefsky said SJSU doesn't currently delete or archive student information after students have graduated, so until a process is in place to do that, students' bank information will be stored in the CSU's data center indefinitely.

Because of a recently passed federal law, universities can mandate that all students enroll in direct deposit. Anderson said she wanted to go with a mandate, but said upper management wanted to be "more friendly" to students.

Anderson said departments at the school may decide to require direct deposit on their own, and said the athletic department is considering doing so for athletic scholarships.



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Flawed U.S. foreign policy in Egypt

Across Egypt, tens of thousands of Arabs braved tear gas, water cannons, stun grenades and live gunfire over the past few days demanding the removal of President Hosni Mubarak after the nearly 30 years of dictatorship.

As Cairo lay drenched under clouds of gas from thousands of canisters fired into dense crowds by riot police, it looked as if Mubarak's rule was nearing its finish.

The escalating unrest in Egypt has caught the Obama administration off guard as it desperately tried to avoid any public appearance of taking sides.

But that of course would take some rhetorical gymnastics considering Washington's close and longstanding political and military ties to Mubarak's dictatorial regime, not to mention our annual financial aid worth about \$1.5 billion.

While the U.S. favors Egyptian political reform in theory, in practice it has propped up an authoritarian system for pragmatic reasons of national self-interest.

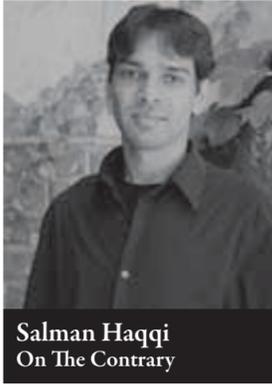
It behaved in much the same way toward Saddam Hussein's regime in the 1980s, when Iraq was at war with Iran.

A similar tacit bargain governs relations with Saudi Arabia.

That's why, for many Egyptians, the U.S. is part of the problem.

Like tottering tightrope walkers, the balancing act performed by President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, has been excruciating to watch.

When the protests kicked off, Clinton pulled out the old chestnut, urging all parties "to exercise restraint," a useful phrase for clueless politicians.



Salman Haqqi
On The Contrary

Clinton also struck a lopsided note. "Our assessment is that the Egyptian government is stable and is looking for ways to respond to the legitimate needs and interests of the Egyptian people," she said.

Against a backdrop of street battles, beatings, tear gas, flying bricks, mass detentions and attempts to shut information networks such as the Internet and cellular phone services, her words sounded naive if not outright absurd.

Nobel laureate Mohamed ElBaradei, the establishment rebel who joined the protests, was flabbergasted.

"If you would like to know why the United States does not have credibility in the Middle East, that is precisely the answer," he said.

The truth is no one knows how these uprisings will end.

In the last year of his life, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. questioned U.S. military interventions against progressive move-

ments in the Third World by invoking a quote by President John F. Kennedy, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

Were he alive to witness the last three decades of U.S. foreign policy, King might update that quote by noting, "Those who make secular revolution impossible will make extreme Islamist revolution inevitable."

Revolution of some kind, as King said, seems inevitable in the region.

Though it would be a bit credulous to assume that if the U.S. took its heel off the Arab people and ended its embrace of the dictators, the region would bloom into a hotbed of democracy.

But it would certainly help secularists and democrats win hearts and minds against extreme Islamists in the region.

Democracy is a great idea — unfortunately it plays little role in U.S. foreign policy. At the end of the day the U.S. needs a friendly government in Cairo more than it needs a democratic one.

Whether the issue is Israel-Palestine, the Gulf oil supplies or the spread of Islamist fundamentalist ideas, the U.S. wants Egypt, the Arab world's most populous and influential country, in its corner.

That's simply the political and geostrategic reality.

In this sense, Egypt's demonstrators are not just fighting the regime — they are fighting the U.S. as well.

"On The Contrary" is a weekly column appearing on Mondays. Salman Haqqi is the Spartan Daily Executive Editor.

Obama's plan focuses on nation's finances

I already knew what I believed before I started watching the State of the Union address on Jan. 25.

In all fairness to President Barack Obama, I felt he gave a fine address to a room full of politicians, citizens and White House staff.

He spoke eloquently, outlined lofty goals for government efficiency and constantly called for a bipartisan effort to overcome America's economic and social challenges.

I did not, however, feel like he was going to gloriously lead America into a new age of prosperity, as some might have hoped after his election.

When Obama came into office there was a tangible sense of accomplishment among everyone who voted for him — the feeling that "change had come to America."

Looking back since that event, yes, Obama has made efforts to reduce the number of troops in Iraq, reform health care and to stimulate the economy, all of which he took time to go over in his address.

Yet I can say, having lived in the United States for almost my entire life, that I do not feel like things have changed during this latest administration.

There is still a perpetual fear or distrust of strangers that permeates almost every social encounter with a new person.

Whether randomly passing in the street, on the bus or even the classroom, many minority youth still do not prioritize their education, and are resigned to living a lifestyle that leaves them dead or in prison.

While we fight a war across an ocean on the other side of the world, the lives of people in the country south of our border are caught in the unyielding grasp of drug cartels.

I'm not pointing the finger at Obama, far from it. It is completely unreasonable to expect one person to solve the problems of more than 308 million, and he did not attempt to.

The president had two clear focuses throughout the entire speech: competition and money.

From the earliest part of his address, after initially recognizing the need for bipartisanship, Obama began discussing the need to compete globally with India and China.

He emphasized the need to remain competitive and constantly asserted that our goal was to "win the future."

With this goal of "winning" in mind, he discussed putting money into green jobs, redeveloping infrastructure and continuing education reform with the "Race to the Top" initiative.

These undertakings include many ambitious goals, such as that of 100,000 new teachers in 10 years and 80 percent of America's electricity coming from clean energy by 2035.

The overlying vision that tied everything together, as Obama described it,



Francisco Rendon
Staff Writer

was a strategic use of money, and the need to compete and win in a global economy.

It came as little surprise then, that Obama later on began discussing "knocking down barriers that stand in the way of (private companies) success," and then went on to outline his intention of lowering the corporate tax, while hinting at the need for a massive reorganization of the government.

While this somewhat surprised me, it certainly didn't seem as though this was the end all solution to all of our problems.

While we must readily recognize that the decisions made in Washington have significant ramifications on the lives of everyone in the United States, the fact is that this address was largely about money. The address highlights how money is being spent, and how the United States plans to get more of it.

The reality, from my perspective, is that it does not matter how much money we have or how we spend it. We are already the wealthiest nation in the world.

The collective discontent from which our entire society is afflicted, both domestically and globally, is apparent through the increasingly frustrated and divisive rhetoric and prejudice permeating all forms of mass media.

The rise in both legal and illegal drug use, soaring crime rates, homelessness and the wide array of other social ills, cannot be solved by more or less government-mandated jobs, tax cuts or by any specific scheme organized by an elite group of individuals.

Rather, it must be addressed in a united, coherent and organic movement, driven by the individuals who are working at the grassroots to combat these social ills.

While Obama can make decisions that have an influence on all of our lives, and it does appear he has some changes in mind, there are real limits on how much he can affect social change.

It was not disappointing, then, when I didn't feel that all our problems were going to be solved after the State of the Union address.

Luckily, I already knew that before I started watching,

Decency for all



Marlon Maloney
One-Man Peanut Gallery

On the eve of "Black History Month" I thought I would take the opportunity to bring up Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., after missing the opportunity to do so on his day of remembrance.

King is typically remembered for his work toward racial equality in this country; however, he should also be thanked for his belief in having livable working wages.

In his fight for racial equal-

ity, it became clear to King that it could not be achieved without monetary security.

"There is nothing but a lack of social vision to prevent us from paying an adequate wage to every American citizen whether he be a hospital worker, laundry worker, maid or day laborer," he wrote in his last book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community."

"There is nothing except shortsightedness to prevent us from guaranteeing an annual minimum and livable income for every American family," he said. "There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities."

Just as it would be difficult to believe King would be happy with what black society has done with the rights that he and so many others fervently fought for, you would be hard-pressed to convince me of King's satisfaction with the number of jobs providing livable working wages in today's society.

According to 2009 data from the U.S. Census Bureau,

the percentage of working families who are low income increased from 27.4 percent in 2002 to 30.1 percent in 2009.

There are far too many jobs that simply don't allow people to make ends meet, and in these poor economic times this problem has only worsened.

One thing this recession has made poignantly clear is that there is a growing economic divide between the rich and the impoverished.

The richest 20 percent of working families take home 47 percent of all income and earn 10 times that of low-income working families, according to the U.S. Census Bureau report.

Many of these low-income people hold down jobs in the service industry, specifically in retail where many companies receive large taxpayer provided subsidies. But as we've seen when this second recession started, an economy with a growing number of poverty-stricken families cannot be sustained.

Policymakers at the federal and state levels have failed to deal with this challenge in the

past, but have the opportunity to right the proverbial ship now.

When companies are able to benefit from government support they should be able to render their employees with the ability to provide for their families. Many cities have begun to require this from companies, developers, etc. that are receiving taxpayer subsidies.

However, this needs to become a nationwide endeavor to fix our broken economy and provide people with decent wages, fair working conditions and livable housing — we all strive for these things in life.

King has a reputation of standing up for racial equality, but he should be known for simply standing up for what is right. We are still a great nation with a bounty of offerings that most other countries can't supply, but our priorities are just as jaded as when King fought to correct them.

Now is the time to effect change.

"One-Man Peanut Gallery" is a biweekly column appearing on Mondays. Marlon Maloney is a Spartan Daily Copy Editor.

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■ GYMNASTICS

Spartans vault over Hornets in fifth straight conference win

Nate Morotti
Staff Writer

The SJSU women's gymnastics team pulled off another win Friday night in the its meet against the Sacramento State Hornets.

The Spartans final score at the end of the night was a 193.425, beating Sacramento State's score of 190.00.

"It was a tough going, as far as the judging tonight," said head coach Wayne Wright. "Sometimes the judges are generous and give you the benefit of the doubt, but tonight we really had to work for everything we got, which is OK."

Once again, the Spartans placed first in all four events with the help of junior Thomasina Wallace.

"I owe it all to the team for helping me through everything," said Wallace, who competes all-around. "Without the team and their support I don't know where I'd be."

Junior Aubrey Lee started the Spartans off strong in their first event, the vault, with a score of 9.650. She was followed up by junior Katie Valleau, who pulled in a 9.375 for the team. Next was

senior Katie Jo Merritt and then Wallace who scored a 9.725 and a 9.900 respectively. Last up were seniors Lily Swan, scoring a 9.850, and Shanice Howard, scoring a 9.700.

This left the Spartans with a total score of 48.825 at the end of the first rotation.

The Spartans moved on to the bars for their second event.

First on the bars for SJSU was Howard, pulling off a score of 9.600, and was followed by Swan with a score of 9.625. Third and fourth on the bars were freshman Cassandra Harrison, scoring a 9.525, and sophomore Alyssa Telles-Nolan, who scored a 9.700.

Rounding out the bars for the Spartans were Merritt with a score of 9.650, and finally Wallace with the event's high score of 9.825, leaving the Spartans with a total score of 48.400 for the bars and a running score of 97.225 at the end of the second rotation.

The next event for the team was the balance beam.

First up for SJSU was Wallace, sticking her routine and earning a 9.675 for the team. She was followed by freshman Julia Greer, who also scored a 9.675, and Merritt, who scored a 9.350. After Mer-

ritt was Swann, scoring a 9.175, and junior Aubrey Lee, with an 8.825.

Last on the beam for the Spartans was sophomore Holly Partridge, scoring a 9.525 to leave the Spartans with a total of 47.400 on the beam, and 144.625 overall.

With the third rotation ended, the team went on to its final event, the floor exercise.

First up was Lee, scoring an elegant 9.725, and was followed by Greer with a score of 9.750. Next was junior Casey McCord with a score of 9.625. After her were Swann, with a 9.575, and Wallace, with the event's high-score of 9.850.

Rounding out the floor for the team was Valleau, who tied with Wallace's score of 9.850, leaving the team with its second-highest event-score of the night, 48.800, and a winning final score 193.425.

With the fourth meet of the season over, the Spartans put another win under their belt.

"I'm really excited about the rest of the season," Greer said. "Even with tonight and our high score from last week, I think we can still go up from here. I think we're getting better and more confident every day."

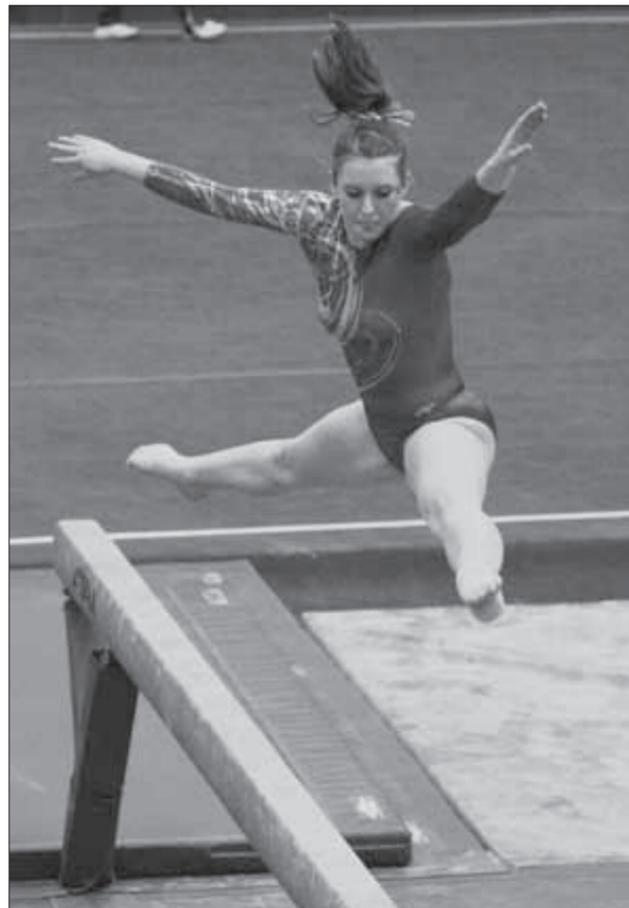


Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Freshman Julia Greer leaps into the air during her beam routine against Sacramento State on Friday night. Greer scored a 9.675, tying junior Thomasina Wallace for first on the event.

■ WATER POLO

Women's water polo takes four wins in Spartan Invitational

Melissa Sabile
Sports Editor

The SJSU women's water polo team dominated the Spartan Invitational, ending the tournament with wins over California State University - Monterey Bay and University of Pacific - Stockton on Sunday.

The Spartans (6-2) are ranked ninth nationally in the coaches poll and secured their ranking with a 14-5 win over Cal State Monterey Bay and a 10-5 win over Pacific.

"Pacific was a team I was concerned about," said head coach Lou Tully. "They're a little bit better than I thought they would be. They brought in some new players and really were very competitive."

He said the team's strategy against Pacific was to utilize all players and make changes in the water when necessary.

"You control that situation with subbing basically," he said. "We start off playing with our start group and if things are going our way then we can start moving some people through, some of our backline players got more time."

Junior goalkeeper Meagan Minson had 14 saves against Pacific and 36 total saves in the tournament, while freshman Timi Molnar had four goals against Pacific and 10 in the tournament.

"I think it was a really good tournament," Minson said. "It showed how much we've been working in practice on concentrating on defense. Our defense just pushed through offense and we were able to keep the momentum going and put the ball away."

Additionally, juniors Allie Stewart and Dani Curran posted nine goals in the tournament and senior Adriana Vogt scored six goals for the Spartans.

"We came into it knowing it was going to be tougher than our morning game," Stewart said of the game against Pacific. "They had a lot of outside shooters and we wanted to shut them down. Our drop had to be quick. We had to get back-and-forths from the set, but

we executed pretty well."

Tully said the majority of the shots came from the outside perimeter, helping the Spartans maintain the lead over the Tigers.

"You take what you can get," he said. "It's kind of like basketball, if you can get the ball into center that's what you want to do. We have a

two-meter player down there and we try to get the ball down to that player for some pretty good shots or an opportunity to get a kick out or a five-meter penalty."

Tully said the team's defensive ability to maintain coverage on the other teams contributed to its success throughout the tournament.

"The field defense is getting better," he said. "They're getting a little bit quicker. You need to be able to go knock down the shooter outside, and at the same time, be able to cover the inside. They had a little better range today

as far as how quick they get from A to B."

Overall, the Spartans swept their tournament matches, coming out with four wins.

"Our goal was to win all four this weekend," Stewart said. "I thought we worked

really well as a team, we really came together."

The Spartans will play again on Thursday at 4 p.m. at the SJSU Aquatic Center as they face the University of Hawaii, their first conference opponent.

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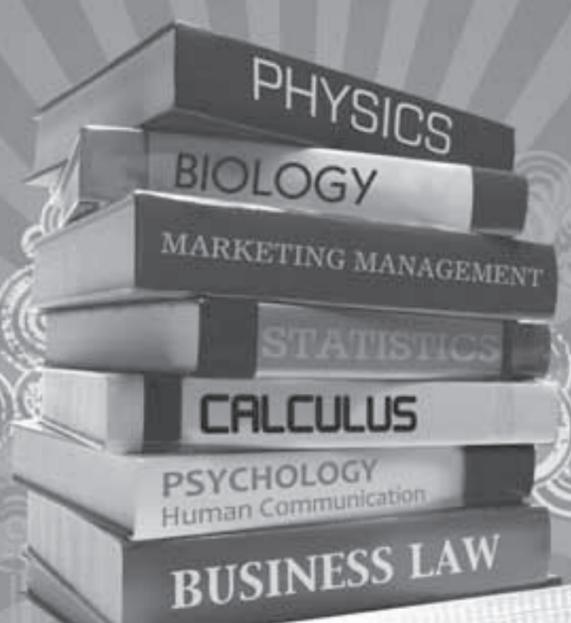
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