University added 50 classes to elevate graduation rate

JORDAN LIEFFENGREN
Staff Writer

More than 50 new classes have been added to SJSU’s course list this fall, the provost said for academic affairs at SJSU. Due to long waiting lists and the desire to increase graduation rates, more sections have been added to bottleneck courses in the curriculum that students must take as prerequisites, said Jerry Selter, who is also the VP for academic affairs at SJSU.

Pat Harris, director of media relations for SJSU, said that for the last few years, SJSU has reduced the number of students on campus from 31,000 to 25,000. “These new classes are better described as updates or changes needed to reflect the times and needs of today’s students,” she said.

Because of the restraints on the budget, Harris said the school cannot accept more than 30,000 students, and must be very careful to count the exact number of credits that each one is taking.

“It’s a zero-sum game,” she said. “We cannot add without tak- ing something away.

So maybe we take away classes that are no longer needed and then we bring in new ones to take the place of the old. That’s what you’re seeing — it’s a zero-sum game.

Many students not only can’t afford to go to college, they can’t afford the stress of having to work three jobs just to pay for their tuition.

For example, Harris said there may have been a class that taught business issues facing, but now it has been changed to advanced program- ming.

According to the SJSU news website, these courses provide a peek into how students are responding to changes in their social, cultural and technolog- ical lives, said Dennis Jacobs, associate vice president for undergraduate studies.

When asked if new professors would be needed for these classes, Harris said it is possible, but it would be at the ex- pense of another faculty position.

“If we bring one person in, then we need to take one person out,” she said. “Or maybe we have one professor that will change what they’re teaching. We’re not go- ing to increase the number of faculty members, we’ll just reorganize the resources.

”Harris said the school has made a strong impression with the staff at SJSU, according to the SJSU interim president.

“We’ve brought in new technology, and said about 99 percent of the students are responding to what we’re offering,” she said. “If we can, we will.”

New VP of Student Affairs brings experiences to SJSU

KRISTEN PEARSON
Managing Editor

The new vice president of student affairs has made a strong impression with the staff at SJSU, according to the SJSU interim president. “He (Jason Laker) just got here and has only been at one staff meeting, but he seems like he’ll be a great fit for the university,” Dan Kassing said.

Jason Laker was hired in a similar position at Queen’s University in Ontario, Canada before coming to SJSU. “I am from the U.S. and it was a great op-portunity to work in a new situation internation- ally, but I have family in the area so it was a perfect opportunity to come here,” he said. Kassing said he and Laker reached a quick understanding of their styles and they both have enough experience to work together in a new situation.

“He’s done his homework about the job,” Kassing said. “He understands the SJSU, the ac- tivities and we are glad to see him.”

Being a first-generation student himself, Laker said he is happy to be helping students who are as well.

First-generation students are undergradu- ates whose parents never attended college, according to the 1998 Statistical Analysis Report from the National Center for Educa- tion Statistics.

“My job includes working with students starting from when they have an interest in the school through their graduation,” Laker said. Leslie La Bure, a student at SJSU, agreed, said she just arrived on campus and is not very familiar with Laker.

“Whatever he’s doing seems like it’s working,” she said.

Laker said he has a Bachelor of Science de- gree in interpersonal and public communica- tions with a minor in broadcast journalism, a master’s degree in community counseling and a doctorate in the study of higher education.

“I worked at universities and took classes while I worked,” he said. Laker said he worked as a residence hall director, a residence complex coordinator, as a teaching assistant, director of residence life,霾, and course coordinator.

See LAKER Page 5

Students report confusion with Desire2Learn system

Students report confusion with Desire2Learn system

AMIEE MCLENDON
Staff Writer

The new Desire2Learn online learning sys- tem, which replaced the Blackboard platform during the summer semester, according to a special launch event this past spring.

The new system is used for all online classes and to give professors another option for managing their classes, said Mark Adams, the instruction developer for D2L. The switch to D2L was set in motion two semesters ago with a pilot program, and offi- cially launched during the Summer 2010 se- mester, Adams said. Senior communications major Susana Bar- celos, who used D2L for an online class during the summer, said there were some things she didn’t like about D2L. The main problem was the interface if you ask me,” he said.

The overall layout is completely different, it is a matter of adjusting to where to find everything and how it functions,” she said.

Another issue Barcelos said she had with D2L was that there were a few times when the server went down with no prior notification during a crucial deadline for an assignment. Adams said there will be glitches with all new technology, and said about 99 percent of the difficulties reported were with enrollment or usernames and passwords.

Adam’s also said he tutored at the C-University website are very helpful and that the sched- uled D2L downtimes are every fourth Satur- day from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday.

The courses are loaded into the D2L sys- tem seven days prior to class, but students do not have access to the account until midnight the day before class starts, Adams said.

The driving force behind the switch to D2L was to create a system that would be com- pletely accessible to all students, said Adams. Adams said out of the top five learning sys- tems that were reviewed by a board of faculty members, D2L was the most accessible and appropriate for this university.

The trial by fire launch of D2L this summer was a learning experience, said communica- tions studies lecturer Stephen Hinterman.

“It’s just not a particularly a user friendly in- terface if you ask me,” he said.

Hinterman, who said he had to adjust to these online learning systems, said it looks like something out of the late ’90s. He said it still

See DESIREE2LEARN Page 2

Zombies crawl on streets of San Jose

ISAAC THE ZOMBIE (LEFT) AND HIS COHORT, BRAINS (RIGHT) WERE BOTH FINALISTS IN THE COSTUME CONTEST DURING THE SECOND ANNUAL ZOMBIE CRAWL ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25.

Zombies, costumes and camaraderie - We're always in the mood for a good cause.

BLOG
See how the weekend’s landfill full of zombies was providing ways for students to get involved and raised funds.

SPORTS
Civil vs. patient
Addictive
Fight for topless
Overtime goal beats Spar- tan
La Secla tapped as starting quarterback

ONLINE VIDEO
See the moment downtown at A&E

Serving San José State University since 1934

OPINION
Eight-track enthusiasts
Addicted to online
Civil vs. patient
Why waste, not waste?
Writing with the right hand

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OUTSIDE
High: 73° Low: 55°
Students get sweet tooth at alumni event

REBECCA HENDERSON
Start writer

Students swarmed the sidewalk in front of the Event Center at the Paseo de Conde Square to enjoy free ice cream given out by the Alumni Association on Thursday. The ice cream social was the start of many events to kick off the Fall 2010 semester and welcome new students, according to the Alumni Association website.

"This event is the start of introducing our students back to alumni," said Gil- lan Brotherson, events and outreach coordinator for the Alumni Association.

As students stood in line waiting to be served, they had the opportunity to pick up flyers, pins and popcorn and engage in conversation with alumni.

"This event helps us to meet the new students and build long-lasting connect- ions," said Charity Perry, membership and finance coordinator for the Alumni Association.

The ice cream social was the main goal of the ice cream social was finding a way to associated with alumni to industry. You can see we really are ready to start working and designing things." According an associate dean of the College of Engineering.

"There could be many factors," said Ahmed Hambaba. "I say we should be more than top 20. It really is because students are really more hand-on with things here. When you go to companies they really are ready to start working and designing things." According an associate dean of the College of Engineering.

"My advice is to focus, to make a simple homepage. You build a class homepage completely different, you grade discussions differently and that has set me back toward graduation." said Mitchell Sullivan, a senior engineering stu- dent at a college in San Diego, said he was vis- iting an SJSU student for the weekend and was "Blown away!" by the engineering program.

"If I had the same amount of admires at my school, I may have graduated by now," he said. "With so many areas to choose from, I myself have jumped around to see what I really enjoy and that has held me back toward graduation." Hambaba said students have many different courses to choose from in the engineering program.

"We have authors engi- neering, we have mechanical, aerospace, we have civil en- gineering," said Ahmed Hambaba. "We have chemical, material, we have biomedical, civil and all kinds of areas," he said. "It is good to start select- ing your major first or second year because that way you real- ly start focusing on your area." Hambaba said incoming freshmen can get lost while trying to figure out what they are most passionate about in engineering.

"My advice is to focus, be open-minded and also to talk to your professors," Hambaba said. "When you talk to professors, you will start knowing more is what your passion. You have to look at your- self and ask what do you want to do? Usually it is inside and you have to discover that." Hambaba said when you know your passion, you will arrive there. You get your passion by talking to your peers, talking to faculty, talking to professors, talking to each other.

Dean of Engineering Buck Wel said there will be a new student welcome career fair this weekend.

"We are here to help them to succeed and work with them to choose the better options," he said. "For building, inspiring engineers, the Silicon Valley is the place to be." But Kejal Patel, who works at the help desk, said he thinks this is where some of the disconnect happens.

"We do get students who are a little mad and frustrated," said Patel, a graduate stu- dent in electrical engineering. Patel said he is not totally familiar with all the components of D2L, and that he can only help with user names and password resets, but from there he takes down information for a ticket and passes it on.

Adams said the reason for that is that D2L hosts the learning system and SJSU staff are the managers, but they don’t hold all the power to the servers.

That is one thing Barcelos said is frustrat- ing for her. She said she wants to get the most out of her classes, especially given the amount of money she pays for them.

"Considering we are in the heart of Sili- con Valley, we should have state-of-the-art online systems that are ready when school starts," Barcelos said.

She said she likes the flexibility and access- ability of online classes, and that high expecta- tions for the D2L system.

"The online learning system should be opened up for student access sooner than the first day, especially for students new to the system," Barcelos said. "Online students expect 24/7 access, with advance notice of scheduled downtime and quick resolution on the rare occasion that it does happen."
Charlene Archibeque returns to SJSU choir after four years

CALLI PEREZ
Staff Writer

This fall, SJSU will be welcoming back a former choral director as the new acting director of choral activities.

Charlene Archibeque said she has been retired from her position for four years. Prior to her retirement, she said she helped the SJSU Choir, once called the "Choraliers," win seven international-choral competitions.

Archibeque said she is back and ready for a year with SJ-SU's newly named "Chamber Singers," which she said will be her busiest year yet.

"When I taught here four years ago I was FERPing," said Archibeque. "I used to only have class two days a week."

According to Archibeque, FERP stands for "Faculty Early Retirement Program."

This year, Archibeque said she will be teaching three classes, four days a week. She said her schedule is a change after four years of retirement, but she is ready for it.

Besides being a teacher, Archibeque said she is a conductor and a music fanatic.

"Music is my passion," she said.

According to the SJSU Music Department website, Archibeque's many awards in the field show that SJSU’s choir is in good hands.

Archibeque said she has spent time composing in different music halls all over the world — one of her favorite music halls is in Modena, Italy. She said she loves different cultures and languages and how they correlate with music.

"Listening to music every day is just so important," Archibeque said. "It is everything to me to make beautiful sounds with your voice. This country would do a whole lot better if people sang more. I want students to come and take full advantage of all the great music classes SJSU has to offer."

According to SJSU students Nick Liberatore and Amanda Michaelson, choir is not the only music department facing change this semester.

Liberatore and Michaelson said the music department will be bringing in new directors to other departments as well this year.

A director is very important to any music program said Annalise Manino, a senior hospitality, recreation and tourism management major.

"I have been singing in the gospel choir all four years of school now because we have a great director who makes singing in the choir fun but also challenging," she said.

According to Archibeque, SJSU also offers Listening Hour, which is a free concert on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the Music Building.

She also said the choir will have two debut concerts in October that students are welcome to attend.

"It does not matter what students wear," Archibeque said. "Just come and enjoy some music. Sit down, maybe learn something."

OCTOBER 3, 2010

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

ON AUGUST 30, 1985

THE SPARTAN DAILY REPORTED THAT...

- Occupational therapy students and instructors did some first-day-of-class group exercises on the lawn behind the occupational therapy building for fun (above).
- Dorm costs increased approximately 9 percent. A double room and 19 meals per week cost $3,324 on a yearly basis.
- Rush week was postponed because of schedule changes on campus.
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Free two-day shipping available to customers who qualify for our free Amazon Student program.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT NO LONGER HAVING FURLOUGH DAYS?

It sucks that they are gone. There goes my days off to go to the beach or go shopping. I was looking forward to a couple of those this semester, but at least I won’t be getting more education.

Jeanette McKillop
Senior Animation

I’m glad that furloughs are over and that teachers are being paid. I’m glad we’re getting the education that we paid for.

Thomas Peters
Senior Music

I felt the furlough days would inconvenience my commute some days. I commute from Hayward so sometimes all but one of my classes would be furloughed and I’d commute just for one class. It was a huge inconvenience.

Trang Ngo
Freshman Biology

No more furlough days makes me mad because that was my sleep time. Furlough days was a good time to catch up on my sleep and to catch up on art time in the studio.

Jan Marvin
Junior Graphic Design

I don’t like furloughs in general. Not having them benefits the school overall and not just money-wise. Having the furlough days made me appreciate class time. Now I can devote more time to my classes.

Michelle Barra
Freshman Nursing

It’s better that we don’t have furlough days because the teachers don’t have to take days off. Having more class time is better.

Hanzie Tandino
Junior Mathematics

I felt that my money is more well spent now that there are no furlough days. I feel that the government is finally doing something right for our education.

Trinh Ngo
Freshman Mathematics

I didn’t like furloughs in general. Not having them benefits the school overall and not just money-wise. Having the furlough days made me appreciate class time. Now I can devote more time to my classes.

Leslie La Barre
Composition graduate student

The Associated Students Print Shop Copy Center, once located behind the old Cafeteria building, has been moved to Hoover Hall due to the construction of the new Student Union.

Senior nursing major Brian Pe Benito said he recently went to the old location to print some green sheets.

“Then I saw the ‘We have moved’ sign,” he said. “Students are not the only ones finding this change to be troublesome,” said Paul Lee, the manager of the A.S. Print Shop Copy Center.

Lee said he thought the former location was comfortable, spacious and visible.

“I’ve worked at the A.S. Print Shop for quite a while,” senior animation/illustration major Kristina Wayte said. “It’s always been convenient for me because all my classes are in the Art Building. Now I have to walk quite a bit to get to this location.”

Troy Rabanal, a junior radio, television and film major, said he frequents the Student Union services.

Lee said he knew about the move for a while. “I felt the furlough days were over. I felt that there was no inconvenience.”

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Troy Rabanal, a junior radio, television and film major, said he frequents the Student Union services.
A penalty kick by Sacramento State’s Laura Bahno from 35 yards out sailed over the head of SJSU goalie Meghan Maiwald and into the net during the second overtime of SJSU women’s soccer home opener Friday, winning the game for the Hornets.

“A high ball come at an angle over the goalkeeper, and that’s what happens when you’re in the worst penalty,” Leightman said of the goal.

SJSU freshman tal- lied the first goal of her collegiate career by striking the ball from the top of the goal box off of a Spar- tan header.

“It felt really good,” Molina said. “It helped us come back and fight harder. It pumped us up, and kept us going.”

Her score was also the first by a Spartan off the bench in her collegiate career.

“She really knows how to come back and fight harder,” head coach Jeff Leightman said of the team.

SJSU spotted up for 13 shots in the game, six by junior midfielder Lauren Sanchez. Two of Sanchez’s shots were from the penalty spot. All three were off the post by the Spartans.

The Hornets kicked 8 on goal of 14 shots overall. One of Sac State’s on-target goals went into the net but was called back.

Following a penalty kick from the half line and a sub- sequent Hornets header down the middle, the ball flew over the head of SJSU goalie Meghan Maiwald. However, the assistant referee called the ball offside on the play.

In the 59th minute, Hor- net forward Elise McBride netted the first goal of the game from what appeared to be 20 yards out. Sac State midfielder Victoria St. Clair said she was a little bit offside on the play. In the 61st minute, Hor- net forward Leah Lanty tried to bring it in down the middle.

“We did poorly in the first half,” head coach Leightman said. “But in the second half there was a com- plete turn-around.”

He said the game was a tale of two teams.

“We just didn’t match (Sac State’s) intensity, he said about the Spar- tans’ ability to come through in the first half.

However, he said the team changed tactically entering the second stanza. Junior defender Jessica Ingram called the first half of the game frustrating. “We need to learn how to keep playing through it,” said the 2009 West- ern Athletic Conference Defender of the Year.

Leightman said the team was capable of a comeback. “I was proud of it,” Molina agreed.

“We have to come back from it, learn from it, and never let it happen again,” he said.

Kelsey Lynne Lester-a senior midfielder-and Megan Molina contributed to this story.

The Spartans trailed early as the Hornets scored the first of two goals on a penalty kick in the second minute of the first half. A penalty kick by Sacra- mento State’s Laura Bahno turned the game around with 10 minutes left in the half. Molina scored on a penalty kick in the second half.

“We needed to learn how to keep playing through it,” said the 2009 Western Athletic Conference Defender of the Year.

The Horn- nets took six corner kicks in the first half, com- pared to one from the second.

Meanwhile, the Spartans took one shot in the first half and 10 in the sec- ond half.

“We played so well in the second half,” Leightman said. “I was proud of our team.”

The play of junior mid- fielder Michelle Haughey was a sample of the change of fortune in the second half. A Hornet deflected a shot from 35 yards out sailed over the head of SJSU goalie Meghan Maiwald. However, the assistant referee called the ball offside on the play. The ball was then re- directed back into the goal from the top of the net.

“All of the scores in the game were unassisted. In the last play of the first half, a Hornet scored and went in the net. Soon after, she hobbed off the field.

“Michelle has been running an injury,” Leight- man said. “She re-injured it, that’s why she wasn’t out for too long. She ice up and was able to go back up in the second half.”

Haughey re-entered the game seven minutes into the second stanza. Four minutes later, she lost a shot on the Hornet goal, which was defended by Sac State goalie Savannah Thronstrom, who had four saves in the game.

Spartan forward Elece McBride rocketed a shot into the back of the goal, and the score was negated by an offside call. The ball was then redirected into the goal from the top of the box into the net forward Elece McBride.

The ball was then directed into the goal from the top of the box into the goal box off of a Spartan header.

“It was a tale of two teams,” Leightman said of the game.

“We didn’t match their play particularly well,” thought the team did not work out a few kinks before the upcoming season. We’re in a strong conference but I know from last season about what the competition will be like, so I think this year is going to be good.”

Maiwald said he thought the team did not play particularly well.

“I know we do have a good group of players and we do have a lot of depth,” he said. “We just have to work out a few kinks before we get going and just expect a better performance next time.”

SJSU plays at 7 p.m. Wednesday against UC Rivera- side at Spartan Stadium.
Downtown San Jose was alive with the living dead Wednesday during the second annual Zombie Crawl, hosted by Zombie-o-Rama and the San Jose Downtown Association.

The event began at SLG Publishing Artboat and Comic Art Gallery around noon, where guests were asked by presenter Dan Vado to bring donations of canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank.

Participants could also have professional makeup artists apply zombie-style makeup for a small fee.

For Second Harvest Food Bank.

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For Second Harvest Food Bank.
Waste not, want not

I’ve always enjoyed writing. It’s something that comes fairly easily to me. I’ve never found it difficult to make my thoughts flow onto the page. And yet, something about the greensheet is what brings me to a standstill. I’ve noticed that I always get stuck with the greensheet.

As I write this, I’m sitting in my first semester class, listening to my professor drone about a greensheet. I’ve seen at least 50 times in other classes. You’ll think students at SJU would have memorized the protocols and university policies by the second week they hear them.

What a waste of time. Now, if the teacher had taught us how to enter DeSmalls, it might not have been a waste of my money and my time. I still have no idea how to enter that crazy new website and I’m supposed to have read something by now.

The first day of class is truly a waste of my time and my money. Do I honestly need to walk over to the building from my job, just to be there for an hour and 15 minutes long? No.

Yet again this semester I’ve learned what plagiarism is, three weeks into the school year. Really, if the teachers want to waste a day of my time, I’ll much rather the time was wasted while I’m studying for finals. Teachers, please use the class time to give your first lecture and save the day off for the first week of finals.

What is a student? What actually brings a student to a greensheet? I’ve seen as many students that don’t even know what a class is actually supposed to be an hour long. And yet, although you do nothing on the first day, the entire point of going is so that you can make sure that the teacher knows he/she won’t kick you out of the class for some schmuck who didn’t register when the registration period began.

Also, when did teachers stop printing out greensheets for their students? What student actually brings a laptop on the first day? Some professors expect students to have their laptops and even though students don’t, the professors insist on explaining how to get to the greensheet online. In my case, I could end up spending half the semester doing what’s due and when, because I have no idea how to get to that schedule.

Let it be known that I’m not internet or computer savvy, and may never know how to get to a teacher’s website through the SJU website. Please, by all means, print out the greensheet.

Pearson’s Ponderings, is a weekly column appearing on Mondays. Kristin Pearson is the Spartan Daily Managing Editor.

Writing with the boys

Spending seven years in college has put me in the posi- tion of wondering why a student bother going to college. Is the first week of class the most important week?

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is a toplevel woman really more indecent than a toplevel man? If we're going to be forced to spend my Saturday afternoon staring at a pale, obese, shirtless dude chowing down a fast-food lunch, I had better be able to do the same.

You see, I don't believe a game demands "its fundamental right to be toplevel be acknowledged where none already exist, according to the 4th Amendment of the Constitution." A recent ruling in Indiana has declared that many of the patients may have been alive if medical care had been taken in every state in the nation.

The law wasn't intended as a way to segregate gated nursing home care, but that is what it has become. It states that the nursing home is the patient's home and everyone else, including the caregivers and others, must abide by the wishes of the patients. So when a patient demands only white nurses, the caregivers are legally bound to honor that request.

This is all fine and dandy when there is an issue with privacy, such as preferring male or female nurses, but it gets more complicated when it needs to be done.

There is no logical reason for a patient to demand care from a person of a specific race, other than to serve a person's own bigotry.

I fail to see the difference between a patient deciding the type of caregiver they prefer and a woman's skin may attend to them because she doesn't have a mouth that smells bad, and a restaurant owner deciding to serve food to people of color because they own the establishment and the public is welcome to come in and eat.

There are two big similarities between the two different scenarios: in both cases, a person is being denied freedom of choice, and rights are being violated.

This isn't about the fact that racism is taking place in this country, because let's face it — there always will be racism to some degree.

It is the fact that this is essentially lawful racism that has been reenacted for far too long, and frankly I'm surprised it has taken this long to outlaw.

Sure, patients should be allowed to get exactly the kind of care they want. But if the cost of another person's dignity.

Many of the patients may have been alive if medical care had been taken in every state in the nation, and a line must be drawn. It may have taken more than just a decade and a lawsuit to get the ballpoint pen rolling, but that line is finally being drawn.

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La Secla tapped as starting quarterback

After weeks of anticipation, football head coach Mike MacIntyre announced Wednesday that senior Jordan La Secla would be the starting quarterback for the SJSU football team’s first game against the national champion, the University of Alabama.

“Starting the season out we’re giving the ball to Jordan La Secla, and Matt Faulkner is still right there close,” MacIntyre said. “I kind of call it 1A and 1B, but Jordan La Secla will, like I said him, I’m handing him the ball first and have we go.”

La Secla, who was the starting quarterback for most of the 2009 season, said he was excited by the decision.

“It’s been a tough camp for me,” he said. “A lot of competition, but you got to be ready for that every year.”

La Secla said the team can now take the next step in training to get ready for Saturday’s game.

“The team’s been waiting for somebody to be announced,” he said. “And now that coach has made the decision we can take the next step forward as an offense to get everything rolling.”

After the team’s last scrimmage on Aug. 21, Faulkner said he would do his best regardless of Coach MacIntyre’s decision.

“I’ll support Jordan totally and be a solid backup and prepare as much as I would if I’m the starter,” Faulkner said. “Whatever happens is supposed to happen and I’m at peace with it.”

Coach MacIntyre said it was close between the two players, but he ultimately chose La Secla.

“He has pretty good escape-ability and a strong arm,” MacIntyre said. “We’ve tracked them all over camp and believe it or not, when they were seven-on-seven they were exactly the same percentage. In their team passing, they were exactly the same percentage, same interceptions, same completions. It was like a mirror image and I just felt like that was the right thing to do right now.”

La Secla played in each of the 12 games last season and threw for 1,926 yards, completing 59.9 percent of his passes, finishing off the season with 10 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

According to the SJSU Spartans website, in 2009, Faulkner passed for 3,301 yards and 30 touchdowns in 13 games, completing 61.4 percent of his passes for Mt. San Antonio College.

Coach MacIntyre said he feels both quarterbacks are capable of leading the team.

“The only thing that might have given Jordan a little bit of an edge is that he’s a senior,” MacIntyre said. “I think it’s always advantageous to a guy that’s worked his butt off ... to kind of give him the benefit of the doubt.”

La Secla said he’s excited to play the Crimson Tide.

“Everyone dreams to play a No. 1 team,” La Secla said. “They’re projected to probably win the national championship again.”

He said he knows his team still has a lot of work to do and they will keep Alabama in their sights.

“We got to focus on us before we can focus on Alabama,” La Secla said. “That’s all we’ve worried about right now. If we can be effective against our defense then we can look at that as a positive way and take that into Alabama.”

He said the team is more focused on its own performance than on what the opponent can do.

“We played at USC last year so we know what it’s like to play a big team,” he said. “We’re mentally ready.”

He said the team can now take the next step in training to get ready for Saturday’s game.

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