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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Hosts Documentary Filmmaker Barbara Martinez Jitner March 6

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s Provocative Perspective series continues on Thursday, March 6, with documentary filmmaker Barbara Martinez Jitner discussing “Femicide in Juarez: The Real Story of Bordertown.”

The free event will take place in the Vista Grande Café at Cal Poly beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and followed by the lecture at 8.

Martinez Jitner posed as a factory worker on the U.S./Mexico border to uncover a dark world of poverty, sexual abuse and murder. Her investigation led to the production of her critically acclaimed documentary “La Frontera.” The lecture covers her personal experiences investigating the topic and producing the documentary.

One of the first Latina executive producers of a prime time network television series, Martinez Jitner wrote the premiere episode of the PBS Emmy nominated series “American Family.” The series garnered critical acclaim with USA Today calling it “a rare dramatic hour.” TV Guide said, “This series premiere packs a wallop.” People magazine named the series a Pick of the Week. She went on to write 10 and direct seven of the show’s first 22 episodes.

Martinez Jitner is also the first Latina ever to be nominated for both a Golden Globe and an Emmy as an executive producer/writer/director for “American Family.”

According to Amnesty International’s Web site, “More than 400 women have been abducted and murdered since 1993 in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, Mexico, bordering El Paso, Texas, just over the Rio Grande. In a significant number of cases, the brutality with which the assailants abduct and murder the women goes further than the act of killing. Many of the women are held captive for several days and subjected to humiliation, torture and the most horrific sexual violence before dying, mostly as a result of asphyxiation caused by strangulation or from being beaten.”

Reservations for the event are required and can be made by calling 756-0327, or e-mailing Liz Cofer at lcofer@calpoly.edu. Persons with disabilities may request accommodations in advance by contacting the Vice President for Student Affairs office at 805-756-1521.

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