July 28, 2006
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Cal Poly Students Second in National Floral Design Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly floral design students took second place recently in the National Student Floral Design Contest held recently in Washington, D.C., as part of the American Institute of Floral Design Symposium.

The Mustang floral design team missed first place by only two points, coming in just behind Mississippi State. In addition to the second-place team honors, Cal Poly team member Nicolette Lynch was awarded a $2,000 scholarship from the AIFD Foundation.

This year’s competition included teams from 12 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. In all, 50 students participated.

Cal Poly floral design team members were Sonny Pulido, Audrey Chaney, Anna Villalobos, Hilary Hirzel, Heather Ephraim and Cara Guernsey, accompanied by team coach and Cal Poly Professor Melinda Lynch, AIFD. The students competed in five categories: Flowers to Wear, Bouquet, Sympathy, Hospital Design and Dry Arrangement.

Individual Cal Poly floral design team results:
• Flowers to Wear: Pulido, third; Chaney, ninth; Villalobos, eleventh.
• Bouquet: Hirzel, second; Pulido, eleventh.
• Sympathy: Guernsey, sixth; Ephraim, ninth; Chaney, tenth; Pulido, eleventh; Villalobos, twelfth.
• Hospital Design: Chaney, third; Villalobos, tenth.
• Dry Arrangement: Ephraim, third (tie); Pulido, fifth; Hirzel, sixth.
• Overall: Pulido, third; Chaney; fifth; Villalobos; eighth; Hirzel, tenth.

The team also assisted professional designer Mark Erickson with his show at the AIFD Symposium.

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Editor’s Note: for a jpg of the team, contact thendrix@calpoly.edu.