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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Senior Wins Academy of American Poets Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO - English major Zach Wiberg of Grass Valley won Cal Poly's Academy of American Poets Contest for his poem "Bear River." He will receive a $100 award from the Academy.

Judge Dian Sousa, a local poet, said that Wiberg's winning poem was a simple narrative that reveals a poignant truth.

Sousa, author of "Lullabies for the Spooked and Cool," from Millie Grazie Press, called Wiber's other narratives "flowing, self-deprecating, funny and engaging."

English major Ephraim Scott Sommers, Atascadero, received first honorable mention for his poem "Aesculapius on Emma's Elegy." Aesculapius was the Greek god of medicine who could revive the dead. Sousa described the poem as "dark and edgy."

Animal science major Alea Parker of La Mesa received second honorable mention for her poem "Going Home," which Sousa described as "imagistic and musical."

The annual contest is sponsored by the Cal Poly English Department and the Academy of American Poets located in New York City. The academy is a longstanding advocate for poetry.

The winning poem is published in the fall issue of the CLA journal "Moebius."

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