FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chief Tony Aeilts
University Police
(805) 756-6652

University Police Officer Among Those Honored with Statewide Award From Mothers Against Drunk Driving

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly University Police Officer Alan Darrow was among five local law enforcement officers honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving at the group's 2004 California awards ceremony May 15 in Sacramento.

MADD presented the five officers with its "MADD California Hero Awards" recognizing their efforts to reduce the crime of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Darrow, on behalf of the UPD, is actively involved in both prevention and education programs as well as arrests. Other local law enforcement officers honored along with Darrow May 15 were: Officer James Vanderberg of the Atascadero Police Department; Officer Juan Leon of the Grover Beach Police Department; Officer Bryan Millard of the Morro Bay Police Department; and Officer Terrence Afana of the Paso Robles Police Department.

Darrow has been with UPD for roughly 14 months. "He has put a lot of energy into efforts which help reduce the impacts of alcohol abuse in our area. This includes making presentations to local groups as well as working with other area police agencies at DUI checkpoints," noted UPD Chief Tony Aeilts.

"We are very proud of Al," Aeilts stressed. "There is no community which is immune from the tragedies created by drunken driving. However, preventative efforts made by officers like Al Darrow can make a tremendous difference. Averting even one tragedy is such an incredible success."

- # # # -