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Cal Poly Student Wins National Planning Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO – A Cal Poly city and regional planning graduate student has won the 2005 student Distinguished Leadership Award from the American Planning Association and will be honored at the group’s national conference in San Francisco in March.

Elizabeth FitzZaland is the second Cal Poly student from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design to win the prestigious national award in the past six years. Alison Parnell was the winner in 2000. Cal Poly is the only university in the country to have a student win this award twice.

American Planning Association (APA) awards recognize “the cutting-edge achievements of the planning profession and those involved in creating communities of lasting value,” according to the association. The APA will honor FitzZaland at a National Planning Conference awards luncheon at Moscone Center in San Francisco on March 22. In addition, the March issue of Planning magazine will feature her work.

FitzZaland was among 125 entrants in this year’s competition. She is currently an undergraduate instructor in the university’s City and Regional Planning Department. She also works as a facilitator for the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments and as a project leader for a low-income housing team.

“Ms. FitzZaland is a uniquely talented student,” said APA Awards Committee co-chair Carol Rhea. “Her academic achievement is remarkable, as is her dedication to improving the urban condition through planning.”

About the American Planning Association
The APA is a nonprofit public-interest and research organization committed to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. APA and its
professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, strive to advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society.

About Cal Poly's City and Regional Planning program
The City and Regional Planning Department prepares students for professional practice as community planners, private consultants, and members of nonprofit groups. Students can choose from five concentrations: community development, transportation and infrastructure, economic development, environmental planning, and governmental and public management. Both a master of city and regional planning degree and a four-year bachelor of science in city and regional planning are offered. For details visit the department's Web site at: http://planning.calpoly.edu.

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Editor's Note: Photos of FitZaland are available. Please contact Ray Ladd at (805) 756-7432 or rladd@calpoly.edu.