FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bob Alberti
805-461-5993; rea@bibliotherapy.com

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Continuing a decade-long tradition, the Cal Poly Collegians Alumni Big Band will perform from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, in the Madonna Inn Ballroom in San Luis Obispo.

The band, featuring 20 musicians from across California and beyond, will recreate the swinging sounds of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Les Brown and other big bands of the 1940s through the ‘60s. Two winners of the 2011-12 Collegians’ Jazz Scholarship will join in the performance: music majors Dylan Weddle, trumpet, and Jonathan Withem, percussion.

The dynamic program of big band jazz and swing is great for dancing or just listening. Admission is free, but to ensure seating, dinner reservations are suggested. Voluntary contributions for Cal Poly’s Collegians Jazz Scholarship are appreciated.

The alumni band is comprised of Cal Poly graduates from the late ‘40s to the early ‘60s who now live throughout California and in Arizona, Oregon and Massachusetts. Local members are residents of Atascadero and San Luis Obispo. The all-male ensemble -- predecessor to today’s acclaimed University Jazz Bands -- was founded in 1937 by longtime Cal Poly Music Department Head Harold P. Davidson.

The alumni band has performed for enthusiastic audiences at a variety of local venues including Edna Valley Vineyards, the Central Coast Mall, Mission Plaza, Atascadero Lake Park, and a 1996 pre-opening sound check at the Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly.

For more information about the Cal Poly Collegians Alumni Big Band, including historic photos, visit www.cpcollegiansalumni.com. To make a dinner reservation at the Madonna Inn, call 543-3000.

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