SINGER, AMERICAN LITERATURE PROFESSOR FLORENCE DORE
TO OPEN CAL POLY 2002-2003 WRITERSPEAK PROGRAM OCT. 11

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- This year's Cal Poly WriterSpeak program will get under way on Oct. 11 with a performance by singer and American literature professor Florence Dore.

Dore will perform singles from her new album, "Perfect City," and will talk about her work as a renowned Faulkner scholar at 7 p.m. in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center.

Jon Parales of The New York Times said, "Florence Dore, who was born in Nashville, moved on from roots-rock bands to become a professor of American literature before she made her first album, 'Perfect City.' She knows how to tell a story in a handful of ballad or country-rock verses; her plaintive voice carries concise tales of memory and disillusionment."

The Nashville Scene's Paul Griffith wrote, "Dore splits her time between two consuming, shark-infested careers. By day, she's a professor of American literature . . . . By night, she's an integral part of downtown Manhattan's alt-country scene."

In an early review of her album, writer Fred Mills said, "Like a younger Lucinda Williams, Dore lets economy be her guide, whether sketching out subtleties of a Tennessee family's history in the hillbilly ballad 'No Nashville' or detailing blown bank accounts and blown dreams on the lovely dulcitar/organ-spaccled midtempo waltz, 'Early World.'"

According to No Depression magazine, "'Perfect City,' the title track,
seems to sum up the album's many references to American cities, from Nashville to Boston. Real cities become the imagined, flawless sites of dreams."

Dore currently holds positions at both NYU and Kent State.

The public is invited to the free event. It is sponsored by Cal Poly's English Department and Cal Poly Arts. For more information, contact Adam Hill of the English Department faculty at 756-1622 or ahill@calpoly.edu.