FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vietnam Vet Author Tim O'Brien To Visit Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Award-winning author Tim O'Brien, known widely for his stories about the Vietnam War, will visit the Central Coast and Cal Poly Oct. 18.

O'Brien's campus appearance is part of a new university reading program titled Preface: The Cal Poly Shared Reading Program, initiated this year for selected incoming students. O'Brien will meet with Preface participants and give a free public talk on his book "The Things They Carried," a highly acclaimed collection of stories about the Vietnam War.

The book was assigned summer reading for the Preface program.

"Preface aims to enrich the academic life of the university across all disciplines and provide students with a common intellectual experience," according to Patricia Ponce, coordinator for the university's accelerated academic programs.

This year Preface targeted students in the university's Honors Program, designed for academically motivated students. Preface is open also to members of the community who want to share the experience of reading -- and later discussing -- the same book.

O'Brien will speak about themes from "The Things They Carried" as well as his other work, including his latest novel, "July, July." After the talk, O'Brien will sign copies of his books, which will be available for purchase.

The author will also hold a book signing at The Novel Experience bookstore in San Luis Obispo and will appear on the Dave Congalton show on radio station KVEC.
O'Brien's schedule for the day is:

11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - A special presentation to honor student participants in Chumash Auditorium.
12:30-1:30 p.m. - Lunch with honor students in Chumash Auditorium.
2-3 p.m. - Book signing at The Novel Experience, 787 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.
4-5:30 p.m. - KVEC interview with Dave Congalton and David Blakely, a Preface committee member.
7-8 p.m. - Talk in Chumash Auditorium.
8-8:30 p.m. - Book sale and signing in Chumash Auditorium.

For more information on O'Brien's visit or the Preface program, call Ponce at 756-5932.

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