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Cal Poly Creative Writers to Read at May 19 Byzantium Release Party

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's English Department will release the 22nd edition of Byzantium at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at a reading and party open to the public at Sally Loo's Café in San Luis Obispo.

All winners and editors' choice selectees will read from their pieces at the event. Copies of Byzantium, Cal Poly's annual publication of the winners and editors' choice selections of the Al Landwehr Creative Writing Contest, will be available at the event and around campus for free.

"Cal Poly's science students are justifiably praised every year," said English Professor Kevin Clark, advisor to the literary magazine, "but not enough people know how remarkably talented our student writers are. Most years one or more winners of the creative writing contest go on to prestigious MFA programs in creative writing."

The award for first place in poetry went to Kate Sugar, followed by second- and third-place winners Matelyn Peracca and Cate Harkins, respectively.

The first-place award for fiction went to Aaron Rowley, and Bradley Ryan and Sara Hanningan took second and third, respectively.

Editors Brita Shallcross and Chrissy Berry are enthusiastic about the event.

"The Byzantium unveiling is more than a capstone of a year of hard work, it is a celebration of the talent of our peers," said Brita Shallcross, coeditor of Byzantium. "Reading the pieces is one thing, but listening to the author's inflection is something entirely different."

Clark promises a terrific time. "Come out, have some coffee, and hear the next wave of great California writers," he said.

Sally Loo's is located at 1804 Osos St., around the corner from the train station. The café hosts numerous events and sells only organic products.

The event is sponsored by Cal Poly's English Department. For more information, contact Clark at 756-2506 or kclark@calpoly.edu

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