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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Journalism Student Wins Award for News Story of the Year

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly journalism student Victoria Billings' story about the response to a campus suicide has been named News Story of the Year by the Associated Collegiate Press.

Billings received the award Nov. 4 at the National College Media Convention in Chicago. This year's Story of the Year competition drew 592 entries from across the country. [Her piece](#), which was published in the Journalism Department's student-run Mustang Daily newspaper, took first place in the News Story category. Headlined "[We Are a Community of One](#)," the story covered the memorial for Cal Poly physics freshman Osvaldo Ponce, who died on campus in March.

"Victoria Billings is an exceptional student who deserves recognition for not only her writing, but also for her work ethic and dedication to the craft of journalism," said Mustang Daily faculty adviser Brady Teufel.

Judges from the Deadline Club, the New York City chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, cited Billings for "sensitive and responsible reporting about a difficult topic that some college newspapers avoid – campus suicide. The story focuses on student reaction and recovery with plenty of information about resources for students."

Others on the Mustang Daily staff were also honored at the Chicago convention:

- Paul Bittick received the 2012 Distinguished Adviser Award from the College Media Association for his exemplary leadership of the student newspaper's business operations.
- Graphic designer Brad Matsushita placed fourth in the Advertising Rate Card/Brochure category of the ACP Advertising Awards.

Receiving honorable mentions were Christian Milam in the Sports Picture category of the ACP Photo Excellence Awards, and Emily Hsiao in the Ad Campaign category of the Advertising Awards.

The Mustang Daily was also recognized as a Pacemaker finalist for its online edition, mustangdaily.net.

About Cal Poly's Journalism Department

The Journalism Department offers a professional program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism with programs in broadcasting, multimedia, news-editorial and public relations. Journalism majors serve as staff members for departmental media, including Mustang Daily, the student newspaper; CCPR, the student-run public relations firm; KCPR, the FM-stereo radio station; and the news and programming operations of CPTV, Cal Poly's TV station. Founded in the 1920s, the department has thousands of alumni, many of whom hold prominent positions in print, broadcast and public relations for state and national organizations.

About Associated Collegiate Press

ACP is the oldest and largest national membership organization for college student journalists. Since 1921, it has offered members resources to help their publications -- newspapers, yearbooks, magazines, broadcast programs and online publications -- improve. More than 20,000 students are staffers at ACP member publications.

About College Media Association

CMA has been working since 1954 to help student media professionals improve their media operations. Endorsed by state and regional professional and college media associations and schools and departments of mass communication, CMA communicates and works with professional media organizations and education associations on the local, state and national levels.

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