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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Host Lecture on Dilemmas in Food Ethics and Technology on Feb. 8

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group at Cal Poly will sponsor a talk on “Three Challenges in Food Ethics” by Michigan State Professor Paul B. Thompson from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8. The event will take place in the Agricultural Engineering main lecture hall (Building 8, Room 123) on campus.

The talk, part of Cal Poly’s Technology, Policy & Ethics Lecture Series, will focus on dilemmas in food ethics. The last decade has seen a dramatic growth of interest in food and food ethics. Thompson will discuss three key problems: the ethics of global hunger; the ethics of food consumption as it relates to personal and public health; and the ethical underpinnings of “the food movement” and its attraction to local and ethically motivated supply chains.

Although these three issues present distinct challenges, they are connected to one another in surprising ways, according to Thompson. In his talk, he will explain how approaches to food ethics that focus narrowly on one set of issues might find that they have adopted strategies that put us in an awkward position with respect to the others.

Thompson is the W.K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics at Michigan State University, where he serves in the departments of Philosophy; Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics; and Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies.

He has served as a member or advisor to the U.S. National Research Council’s Board on Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee, Genome Canada’s Scientific Advisory Committee, and numerous other boards and panels.

The lecture is free and will be followed by a discussion. The public is invited.

This talk is also sponsored by Cal Poly’s College of Liberal Arts’ Lottery Speakers Fund; College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; and Philosophy Department.

For more information, visit the Technology, Policy & Ethics Lecture Series page at www.ethics.calpoly.edu/lecture_series.htm.

About the Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group

Based at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, the Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group is a nonpartisan organization focused on emerging technology ethics, including risk, legal, policy, and social impacts of new technologies and sciences. Learn more online at: <http://ethics.calpoly.edu>.

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