

SUPERMILEAGE RACER TAKES THE SILVER

AT A WHOPPING 2,752.3 miles per gallon, Cal Poly's 2008 'Supermileage' car finished second at this year's international Shell Eco-Marathon Americas competition.

This year's vehicle, the Black Widow, sported a new top and hardware for the 2008 competition – a modified version of last year's 92-pound vehicle, which took first place with an impressive 1,902.7 mpg.

The competition's test vehicles were powered by fuel cell/hydrogen technology, diesel fuel, solar power and liquid petroleum gas, which fueled Cal Poly's vehicle.

The 2008 competition took place in April at the California Speedway track in Fontana. The event brings student teams from around the world to compete in the high-mileage, fuel-saving prototype vehicles they have designed over the past year.

Cal Poly competed this year in a field of 27 teams from 23 universities and four high schools from across the United States, Canada and Mexico. □



HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS HONORED

CAL POLY'S SOCIETY of Hispanic Professional Engineers was recognized as the 2006-2007 Region I Chapter of the Year at the SHPE National Conference in Philadelphia. Region I spans San Luis Obispo to Washington State and encompasses 26 universities.

Cal Poly's SHPE was recognized for its record of service, offering its 156 members academic, social, professional and leadership opportunities.

SHPE recently assisted in two MESA (Math, Engineering, Science and Achievement) Day events at Cal Poly, leading several hundred underrepresented middle and high school students in hands-on engineering activities. SHPE also tutors students at a local elementary and middle school.

On campus, SHPE supports members with study sessions and tutoring, and the group recognizes academic achievement with cash awards and corporate-funded scholarships. SHPE was established at Cal Poly in 1978. □



PROF-AMBASSADOR RELEASES AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY

RECOGNIZED AS “one of the most important films on the Middle East in recent years,” by Harvard University’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies, “Kabul Transit” is now available on DVD.

Co-produced and directed by Maliha Zulfacar, a professor of sociology at Cal Poly, “Kabul Transit” details the uncertain and often tragic lives of Afghans and Westerners trapped in Afghanistan’s virtually forgotten war. The DVD includes over 54 minutes of extra footage, as well as subtitles in English, Spanish and Dari Persian.



Zulfacar, who was born and raised in Afghanistan, has been dedicated to improving her country’s education system since the United States’ occupation began in 2001. In 2002, she began to divide her time between Cal Poly – where she teaches classes on gender, international immigration, and global ethnic conflict – and Kabul, where she teaches at the university.

Zulfacar is the co-founder of the Kabul University Children Center, director of Cal Poly’s Afghan Educational Outreach project, founder of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies, and liaison to Afghanistan’s Ministry of Higher Education.

In 2006, Zulfacar was appointed Afghanistan’s Ambassador to Germany and will likely return to Cal Poly for the fall ’09 quarter.

For more information and an order form, visit <http://www.kabultransit.net>. □

STUDENTS LEARN VALUE OF PHILANTHROPY

AN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION pays countless dividends in the future. Cal Poly students are now learning this first-hand, thanks to the newly developed Student Philanthropy Council.

The Student Philanthropy Council is the first organization of its kind in Cal Poly’s history, involving student leaders in philanthropic projects, educating students about the benefits of private support and promoting an awareness and appreciation of philanthropy among students.

The Student Philanthropy Council seeks to establish a line of communication between Cal Poly Foundation Board members, alumni and students, according to Foundation Board Chair Gary Bloom.

“This council will develop students’ leadership skills, allowing them to work with a variety of individuals on campus and off, including entrepreneurs and industry leaders,” said Bloom. “It also creates an opportunity for students to see the results of their own fund-raising efforts.”

The six founding members of the Student Philanthropy Council were introduced to the Foundation Board at its April meeting. A booth in the University Union, a donor “Thank-a-Thon,” WOW activities and dorm events are scheduled this fall. □

(L-R) Nicole Bazzani, Stephanie Liu, Deborah Wang, Gary Bloom, Hunter Glanz, Sarah Storelli, and Lindsey Bauer

