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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Cal Poly Student Poem on Global Warming Wins Academy of American Poets Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly English graduate student Sarah Grieve won Cal Poly's 2007 Academy of American Poets Contest for a poem that dramatizes global warming.

Grieve, from Carpenteria, will receive a \$100 award from the academy for her poem "Hot Water," which imagines the very real, personal toll that global warming may take on an individual.

Two years ago, Grieve won the campuswide Al Landwehr Creative Writing Contest in the poetry category.

"Over the last decade, no one in my classes has combined descriptiveness, elegy and bittersweet comedy as well as Sarah," said Cal Poly English Professor Kevin Clark.

"She's sensitive to the subtle relations hidden beneath the surface of everyday life, while as a tough-minded writer she's committed to the work necessary to bring a good poem to fruition."

This year's contest judge, poet Wendy Barker, called Grieve's poem exceptional in its "tight, strong, clean lines, its strong rhythm that pulses throughout, and its effective use of colloquial diction along with vivid images and a wry sense of humor."

A former starting center on the Cal Poly women's basketball team, in 2005 Grieve was chosen Mustang Scholar Athlete of the Year as well as the Outstanding College of Liberal Arts Student of the Year. She will graduate with a master's in June, and plans to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in poetry at Florida State University on a scholarship.

English undergraduate Gregory Ellis, from Ridgecrest, earned honorable mention for his poem "Collision Sonnet." Contest judge Barker admired the poem for "the strength of its images, the imaginative similes, and the unique and even wise way the metaphor of colliding is carried out."

The contest is sponsored by Cal Poly's English Department and the Academy of American Poets, an advocate for the art of poetry. The Al Landwehr contest is named after its founder, the well-known English professor and widely published fiction writer who began the contest in 1970.

The winning poem is published in the fall issue of Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts journal Moebius.

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