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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Mother To Present Story of Daughter's Sexual Assault, Suicide**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Andrea Fuller Cooper will be at Cal Poly Nov. 13 to talk about her daughter's sexual assault and subsequent suicide in 1995. The talk, "Kristin's Story: A Story of Acquaintance Rape and Depression," will begin at 7 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium in the University Union. It is free and open to the public.

Cooper's devastating story began on New Year's Eve 1995, when she arrived home at 2 a.m. to find her only daughter, Kristin, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The horror of that moment, Cooper said, was only met with the more-shocking discovery of why she had committed suicide. Kristin had been the victim of acquaintance rape.

Devastated, Cooper decided to do what she could to prevent this from becoming the fate of other college women. She has told her story dozens of times to audiences throughout the United States. "I am sharing this because I hope by telling Kristin's story that other lives will be saved, and other young women will not be victims of acquaintance rape," Cooper said.

"After seeing the presentation at a national conference with three other male students, I knew we had to bring it to Cal Poly," said fifth-year business major and event organizer Matt Gilfillan. "It is not just about sexual assault. It is about depression. It is powerful and touching. It is just an awesome event."

Although admission is free, attendees are encouraged to make a donation, on behalf of Cal Poly's Greek community, to benefit the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Center and Women's Center Cal Poly's Greek community.

Cooper's presentation at Cal Poly is made possible by a grant from the National Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity and Delta Delta Delta Fraternity. The event is sponsored by Cal Poly's Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Greek organization. For more information contact Maya Andlig, coordinator of gender and sexuality programs, at 756-5839 or Gilfillan at (916) 802-8999 or [aokpro@aol.com](mailto:aokpro@aol.com).

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