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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Poetry and Jazz Headline Sept. 27 Arts Event

SAN LUIS OBISPO - What do you get when you combine the hottest poet and the coolest jazz band on the Central Coast? "Jazz Limo Laureate Night," featuring poet Ray Clark Dickson and SLO Mambo, the Latin jazz ensemble that's creating waves on the Central Coast.

Set for 8 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27 at Cal Poly's Vista Grande Restaurant, the event is a fund-raiser for the Poetry Committee of the San Luis Obispo County Arts Council and is co-sponsored by the Cal Poly Multicultural Center. Tickets are \$15 per person, with admission free to Cal Poly students. Coffee and dessert are included.

Ray Clark Dickson was born in Portland, Ore., in 1919 and is a graduate of the University of Oregon. He was selected first poet laureate of San Luis Obispo in 1998 and nominated by the San Luis Obispo County Arts Council for state poet laureate in 2002. He has written seven books of poetry and six pulp-fiction novels, and has published hundreds of poems in magazines ranging from the Beloit Poetry Journal to the Wormwood Review and the Saturday Evening Post.

Dickson is included in Beloit's 2000 anthology, "A Fine Excess: Fifty Years of the Beloit Poetry Journal," in the company of William Carlos Williams, Galway Kinnell, Philip Levine, Gwendolyn Brooks, Anne Sexton and other major poets published by Beloit during the last half-century. His last retrospective, the poetry volume "Parlando," is closing a highly successful first printing.

"Ray Clark Dickson consistently amazes me," said Dickson's publisher, Mitchell Smith of the KC Press, in the Kerouac Connection Journal #30. "The clarity, power and breadth of his poetry is something one rarely finds these days. He may be the last undiscovered major voice in America from the 20th century."

Dennis Wills, of D.G. Wills Books in La Jolla, said, "Dickson is the father of the new West Coast poetry - sings like Blake, burns like Bukowski. He does blue-collar and white-collar in the same laundry."

"'Parlando' - what a beautiful book," said Arthur Knight, editor of "the unspeakable visions of the individual" and chronicler of Jack Kerouac. "I don't think anyone since Malcolm Lowry knows what it means to be a gringo in Mexico as well as Dickson."

Marion K. Stocking, editor of the Beloit Poetry Journal, said, "HOORAY for Ray Clark Dickson: for his whole orchestra of musical instruments, for his whole arboretum of brilliant colors, for his lively 5+5 senses, plus his uncommon sense of the range of human experience."

Tickets for "Jazz Limo Laureate Night" are available at the SLO County Arts Council and can also be ordered online from the poetry page at www.ourslo.com. Advance ticket-buyers will be eligible for the Jazz Limo Laureate Night raffle. The winner will win a limo ride to the event with Ray Clark Dickson and his wife, writer Marysia Maziar

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