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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Noted Poet Heather McHugh To Read at Cal Poly May 9

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Renowned poet Heather McHugh will read from her work at Cal Poly's next WriterSpeak event at 7 p.m. May 9 in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center.

McHugh is the author of more than 10 books, including several collections of poetry, translated poetry and literary essays. She is awaiting the release of her most recent work, a collection titled "Eyeshot."

Her collection "Hinge & Sign: Poems 1968-1993" was a National Book Award finalist, and in April 2000, McHugh was awarded the PEN/Voelcker Award.

Nobel Prize-winner Seamus Heaney described McHugh's work as, "wonderful fluency and happy skepticism, the world beautifully seen and sung, the world relished and suspected. Lots of impulse and energy, sprezzatura, bravura."

The American Poetry Review said, "From the start, she's been in rebellion, stubborn in keeping a traditional though wily music in her work, and uncommonly quick, quirky in her language. Among American writers, only a handful seem to have the 'sufficient creative and critical sense to produce with a degree of sustained excellence. One feels this balance quite alive in McHugh's best work."

Born in San Diego to Canadian parents, McHugh grew up in Virginia and

attended Harvard University. She is a core faculty member for the Masters of Fine Art Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C., and a Milliman Writer-in-Residence at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The reading is free and open to the public. For more information, call Cal Poly English faculty member Adam Hill at 756-1622.

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