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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist, L.A. Times Reporter George Ramos To Head Cal Poly Journalism Department

SAN LUIS OBISPO - George Ramos, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist with the Los Angeles Times, has been selected chair of the Cal Poly Journalism Department for a three-year term, beginning fall quarter.

Ramos has been with the Los Angeles Times since 1978, serving as reporter, editor, bureau chief and columnist. He reports on a variety of general-interest stories in a host of Southern California communities.

As chair, he will lead up to seven faculty members, three staff members and about 220 student majors. He will also be responsible for developing several areas of the journalism curriculum, including print media, television, radio and public relations.

"We are thrilled to have George Ramos lead the Journalism Department and become part of the College of Liberal Arts," said college Dean Harry Hellenbrand. "His outstanding reporting and news writing skills, his experience as a mentor to young adults, and his enthusiasm for journalism and higher education will be valuable assets to the students and the university as a whole."

Ramos is a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner. He was part of a team that won a 1994 Pulitzer Prize for on-the-spot reporting about the Northridge earthquake that struck that year. The year before, he won the coveted prize as part of a team that covered the riots that broke

out in Los Angeles after the verdicts were announced in the Rodney King beating case.

In 1984 Ramos was part of a team that won the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Meritorious Public Service. As co-editor and reporter, he led a team of Los Angeles Times Chicano journalists who produced a three-week series of stories about the roots, lives and aspirations of the 3 million Latinos living in Southern California. It marked the first time the award was ever won by Chicano journalists.

The 1969 Cal Poly journalism alumnus chaired the Journalism Department Advisory Board from 1993 until 2002.

His academic experience includes serving as adjunct professor in the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Journalism from 1984 to 1994 and from 1999 to the present. In 2002, USC honored Ramos with a Teaching Without Boundaries Award for his teaching.

He has been a guest lecturer at the Urban Journalism High School Program workshop at Bakersfield College since 1998. Last year he co-directed the Student Campus project at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists annual conference, where he taught journalistic ethics and reporter techniques to 20 college-age students during an intensive three-day workshop.

"I'm honored and excited at the chance of coming back to Cal Poly to lead the Journalism Department," Ramos said. "This is the place that gave me my start in the news business. And I want to give back to it by teaching the next generation of reporters and editors all the things I've learned in 31 years as a journalist."

While a reporter for the Los Angeles Times, Ramos also co-hosted "Life & Times," a public affairs program on KCET-TV, the Los Angeles affiliate of the Public Broadcasting System. He also was a reporter at The San Diego Union and for the Copley News Service.

Ramos succeeds Nishan Havandjian, who has served as chair of the Journalism Department for 15 years and will return to full-time teaching.

Cal Poly's Journalism Department offers a professional program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism. Graduates are prepared for careers in print journalism, broadcast journalism, public relations and agricultural communication. Journalism graduates also enter such fields as TV production, advertising, marketing, law and public

administration. Journalism students run the campus's daily newspaper and operate its FM radio and television stations.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: For a photo of George Ramos, please contact Jo Ann Lloyd at (805) 756-1511 or jllloyd@calpoly.edu.)

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