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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cardboard Boat Regatta Set for Jan. 27; Student Creations Also on Display Jan. 25

Cal Poly's Cardboard Boat Regatta returns to the campus's Recreation Center Pool 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 27 with twice as many entries as last year's event.

More than 75 students in a fundamental architectural design class will design, construct and attempt to navigate vessels made from two 4-foot-by-6-foot sheets of cardboard, brown paper tape and clear polyurethane waterproofing. To qualify for the final race for the regatta's coveted "Cardboard Cup," each craft must stay afloat through one qualifying heat.

The event is sponsored by the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, and admission is free.

New guidelines this year will challenge students to create imaginative flotation devices likely to differ from the traditional boat designs of previous regattas, said project coordinator and Architecture Professor Howard Weisenthal.

"We'll see more exotic devices, not just boats," Weisenthal said.

"This one-week assignment is directly related to the architectural design profession," he said. "The students will combine problem-solving skills, construction detailing and aspects of documentation.

"This will also be one of their first exercises in professional ethics, where they take responsibility for their designs. If they fail and get soaked, they'll have only themselves to blame."

Aiding Weisenthal with the regatta this year are architecture professors Barry Williams, James Bagnall and Laura Joines-Novotny.

Visitors can preview the creations and talk with the student designers on the university's Dexter Lawn from 1 to 2 p.m. Jan. 25. (Bad weather will move the advance viewing to the stairwell area of the Architecture and Environmental Design Building.) Visitors will also be able to inspect the entries 10-10:30 a.m. Jan. 27, just before the races begin.

For more information on the event, call 756-7432.

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NOTE to Editors and News Directors: You are invited to send reporters, photographers and camera crews to cover all these events, including advance viewing of entries and the unveiling of the regatta's "Cardboard Cup" on Dexter Lawn from 1 to 2 p.m. Jan. 25. The instructors will be on hand, as well as students who will be available to talk about how they intend to cross the finish line in winning style.

The following contacts are provided for your convenience (all area 805):

- Dean of Architecture and Environmental Design Martin Harms, 756-1311.
- Architecture Professor Howard Weisenthal, 756-2491 (office), 544-8186 (home).
- The college's associate director of advancement, Ray Ladd, 756-7432 or 756-1321.
- Cal Poly Recreation Sports information, 756-1366 then "O" for operator.

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