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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cal Poly Horticulture Students Take Top Honors in National Collegiate Competition**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly environmental horticultural science students took top honors in a recent national competition, which included a written test on general horticulture and judging in several categories.

Twenty teams and individuals from colleges and universities from across the nation competed in the American Society of Horticultural Science Collegiate Branch Competitions, this year held in conjunction with the International Horticultural Congress in Toronto.

In addition to winning first place as a team, Cal Poly students took first and third place in the vegetable division and first, second and third in both the nursery division and the greenhouse/floriculture division.

Cal Poly students also won third place in the fruit/nut division, and placed first, second and third in the overall individual category.

The winning team members in the vegetable division were Laura Ramage, who placed first, and Rodney Wilkinson, third. Ramage is from Paso Robles, and Wilkinson, who also placed third in the fruit/nut division, hails from Bakersfield.

Lisa Stratton from Quincy took first in the nursery category, Wilkinson placed second, and Ann-Marie Plastino of Nipomo, third.

First-, second- and third-place winners, respectively, in the greenhouse/floriculture division were Stratton, Ramage and Wilkinson.

Stratton was first in overall individual, Wilkinson came in second, and Ramage, third.

Mississippi State University took second in the overall team category, and Texas A&M came in third. Students from the University of Vermont, Louisiana State, and the University of Georgia also competed in the annual contest.

Professors Robert Rice and Wyatt Brown of the Horticulture and Crop Science Department coach Cal Poly's team.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: For a photo of the team members and their coach, please contact Jo Ann Lloyd at (805) 756-1511 or [jllloyd@calpoly.edu](mailto:jllloyd@calpoly.edu).)

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