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Cal Poly Architecture Students Take Top Honors in National Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly architecture students won first and second place in the national 2012 Leading Edge Competition.

The entries for Challenge 1 and Challenge 2 portions of the competition were submitted in spring 2012. The winners were just recently announced.

Challenge 1 was for third- and fourth-year students. They were charged with designing a zero-net energy, mixed-use building of approximately 40,000 square feet containing 12 units of co-housing, a yoga studio, exercise gym and meeting space plus three units of office/retail space, a landscaped courtyard with bicycle parking, and other outdoor amenities.

Cal Poly junior Derek McFarland, advised by Professor Margarida Yin, took second place in Challenge 1.

Challenge 2, for first- and second-year students, was to design a co-housing community aimed at baby-boomer retirees, emphasizing vitality and incorporating elements devoted to recreation, technology and a wellness center. Specifically the students were challenged to design a zero-net energy, six-unit townhouse-style residential building with an outdoor children's play yard and an internet café/juice bar open to the public.

Natalie Abbott, a junior from San Luis Obispo, won first place in Challenge 2. She was advised by professors Howard Weisenthal and Barry Williams.

Juniors Stefan Schwartz from San Jose; Natalie Riccomini, Stockton; Patricia Hansen, Shingletown; and Nicholas Stockler, Brea, tied for second place with students from Mt. San Antonio College. This group of students was advised by professors Troy Peters and Kent Macdonald.

Peters and Macdonald also advised students Lilly Wellington from Felton; Xavier Diaz from San Luis Obispo; and Nicklaus Schwaller, also from San Luis Obispo, who each earned merit citations.

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