
May 14, 2013
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Cal Poly Students Take 1st and 2nd Place in National Packaging Design Contest

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Two teams of Cal Poly packaging students took the top honors in the Ameristar Student Package Awards, a national competition sponsored by the Institute of Packaging Professionals that judges innovative student designs in product packaging.

The winners were selected from a pool of 41 entries from across the country.

“Winning a competition like this really demonstrates Cal Poly’s place as one of the top packaging programs in the country,” said Koushik Saha, assistant professor in Cal Poly’s packaging program and faculty advisor for the teams who submitted entries to the contest.

Kirsten Smith, Kara Vane, Connor Skelly and Matt Baraghimian, all freshman business majors, won first place for a package for Band-Aids. The package allows for easy dispensing of several different sizes and shapes of bandages, essentially functioning as a ready-made first aid kit for special events that might involve both children and adults.

Food science senior Rima Abukazam, business seniors Will Bao and Yarden Berkman, and industrial technology senior Bill Bennett took second place for an innovative container for powder-based makeup. The container recaptures makeup particles that escape during application, minimizing waste of an expensive and easily lost product.

Entries to the contest come from every university packaging program in the U.S. Saha notes that Cal Poly consistently places in the top three in the national and international packaging design competitions.

The students will be recognized at the AmeriStar Student Package Awards Competition Ceremony in Philadelphia on June 19. The first- and second-place teams will receive trophies and checks for \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. They also qualify for Worldstar, the international level of the competition that will take place in October.

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