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Cal Poly ASI President Named Zeta Beta Tau National Brother of the Year

SAN LUIS OBISPO — At a national brotherhood convention last month, the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity gave incoming Cal Poly ASI President Jason Colombini its 2013 Roswell "Buddy" Messing Award for Outstanding Brother of the Year.

ZBT is a nationwide fraternity with 88 chapters and more than 140,000 living members.

The award recognizes the undergraduate member who best exemplifies the fraternity's core values of intellectual awareness, social responsibility, integrity and brotherly love, and is one of the organization's top three awards. "It was just mind boggling, it was so unexpected," says Colombini. "It was one of those speechless moments."

The Cal Poly chapter, chartered in 2009 and one of the newest fraternities on campus, also received the award for Most Improved Chapter.

Colombini has been notable for his leadership, both within ZBT and across campus. Before taking office as ASI president, he served as president of Cal Poly's Interfraternity Council as well as brotherhood development director for the local ZBT chapter. In that role, he developed an innovative orientation program that encourages and educates new members through positive reinforcement and deep self-awareness. Colombini's take on orientation has caught the attention of other ZBT chapters across the state.

"Jason is a student leader of the highest integrity," says Keith Humphrey, Cal Poly's vice president for student affairs. "He works hard to understand everyone's needs and brings forward solutions that help make Cal Poly a better community for our students. I am certain that these qualities were noticed by his fraternity and that they were part of their decision in giving him this great honor."

Founded in 1898 as the world's first Jewish fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau today prides itself on inclusivity. In 1989, it became the first national fraternity to abolish pledging from its organization and, in its place, created a brotherhood program that focuses on equal rights, privileges and responsibilities for all members. Notable alumni include comedian Jack Benny; filmmaker Jerry Bruckheimer; composer Leonard Bernstein; journalist Mike Wallace; and H&R Block co-founder Henry Bloch.

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