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## Cal Poly Engineering Students Win Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Regional Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO — A multidisciplinary team of Cal Poly engineering students won the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) competition sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) at its recent annual regional student conference hosted by Cal Poly.

SkyBarge was one of 15 entries submitted by student teams from universities across the Western U.S. The contest challenged students to design, build and fly a radio-controlled air vehicle capable of maneuvering through obstacles on a small course and dropping a payload on a target within the allotted five minutes, simulating a hypothetical UAV firefighting mission. Points were awarded for vehicle weight and performance in negotiating obstacles and dropping the payload.

"SkyBarge was the largest vehicle in the contest," remarked Russell Westphal, faculty advisor to the team. "The sound made by its rotors caused a stir among the crowd of about 100 spectators as it slowly negotiated the course, made the payload drop, and returned to the start."

Other entries included blimps and smaller multi-rotor UAVs.

The Cal Poly team included mechanical engineering students Gordon Belyea (project team lead), Garrett Gudgel (pilot), Ethan Juhnke, Brandon-Roy Sadiarin, Eric Dreischerf, and Seyhun Oh; aerospace engineering students Hank Mandsager and Armand Lim; and agricultural engineering student Shane Thulin.

In addition to claiming the victory and cash prize of \$500, the Cal Poly team has been invited to compete at the ASME 2014 International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition, set for Nov. 14-20 in Montreal. The prize also included some reimbursement for travel to the international competition in November.

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