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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2014

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Cal Poly Student Places First at California Geographical Society Conference

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly anthropology and geography student Troy Lawson placed first in the Professional Digitally Displayed Cartographic Award competition for his project "Historical Mapping for the City of San Luis Obispo."

For the project, Lawson digitized historical Sanborn Maps ranging from 1905 to 1950 into a geographic information system (GIS) format and then linked them to 2011 aerial imagery of San Luis Obispo.

Lawson's project sought building trends and identified cultural and historical buildings not currently in the city's list of Historic and Culturally Contributing Buildings. The digitization of community artifacts is an effort to use geography and anthropology to enhance community understanding of San Luis Obispo's hidden treasures.

The project can be viewed

at: http://slocity.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/storytelling_compare/index.html?appid=e7ad9c4b59ac4ce5b4eb9bf0179b4411.

The project was presented at the California Geographical Society's 68th annual conference, hosted May 2-4 by Los Angeles City College. The conference celebrates the work of young scholars, professors and professionals in the field of geography. This year's conference attracted about 300 attendees from a variety of community colleges, University of California and California State University campuses, and several out-of-state universities.

Links

- Social Sciences Department: <http://cla.calpoly.edu/socs.html>

- College of Liberal Arts: <http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/>

- California Geographical Society: <http://www.calgeog.org>

About the Cal Poly Social Sciences Department

At Cal Poly, the Social Sciences Department focuses on practical training and critical thinking skills. The department offers degrees in anthropology-geography and sociology, with the opportunity to concentrate in a specific focus area. Students are taught to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the real world through internships, study abroad opportunities, service learning, and senior projects.

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