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Cal Poly to Host Eighth Annual Ballroom Dance Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The Cal Poly Ballroom Dance Club will host its eighth annual “Mustang Ball” Ballroom and Latin DanceSport Competition from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in the university’s Chumash Auditorium.

More than 150 dancers from across California, Arizona and Nevada have registered to compete at the event, one of the largest annual dance competitions in San Luis Obispo County. Amateur dancers of all levels and ages are invited to sign up and compete.

Dancers will compete in six levels of competitions — from newcomer to the highest “open-level” events — in the international and American style ballroom dances. Events also include nightclub dances such as the salsa, hustle, Argentine tango, and lindy hop swing; a formation team competition; collegiate team match; and other special performances.

A highlight of the event will be a showcase of five dances by competitors Iaroslav Bieliei and Olga Tsikalyuk, the current U.S. Professional Rising Star Ballroom Champions.

Last year’s competition drew more than 500 spectators and a record 1,044 entries from Cal Poly and other universities competing in 106 different events.

“This competition is our way of promoting the art and culture of ballroom dancing at Cal Poly and in San Luis Obispo County,” said Zachary Hatton, president of the Cal Poly Ballroom Dance Club. “It is an awesome event in both skill and size, and we’ve been hard at work to make it better year after year.”

The event provides the public an opportunity to experience the ballroom dancing firsthand.

Admission is \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. There is no cost for Cal Poly students with a valid I.D.

For more information and to buy a ticket, visit <http://mustangball.com/> or call 805-242-3262. Donations to help support this nonprofit event are appreciated.

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