Cal Poly Selects Two Students to Receive Arts Awards

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly English major David Schwartz and theatre major Stephanie “Tanner” Agron were selected winners of the 2007 Cal Poly Arts Student Awards.

Schwartz, of Rohnert Park, received the award for Achievement in the Arts for his work as a writer and editor. Agron, from Carmichael, won for Service to the Arts for her varied experiences both onstage and backstage.

Each year the Cal Poly Arts board of directors recognizes two students who have either maintained high levels of involvement in the arts or who have executed superb and specific art projects.

Schwartz served as co-editor of this year's edition of Byzantium, an annual publication that includes work by many Cal Poly student writers, editors and art designers. In addition to his work as co-editor, Schwartz earned first place in the university’s annual Al Landwehr Creative Writing contest for his innovative serio-comical story “Ellipsis.”

“David is a student version of a Renaissance man,” said Cal Poly English Professor Kevin Clark. “He writes extraordinarily innovative fiction and is a gifted public reader of stories, providing readers with an authentic voice and mature stage presence.”

Agron was recognized for her “vast resume experience, a solid grade point average that sets her apart from other students, onstage and backstage skills as performer, director, manager and teacher,” according to Theatre and Dance Assistant Professor Josh Machamer.

“Stephanie was the director of Smile and Nod, a departmental improvisational group that is tremendously successful,” Machamer said. “Her work is mature and engaging, and she is equally adept at comedy and drama.”

Schwartz and Agron will each receive a cash prize and a framed commendation during the College of Liberal Arts’ end-of-the-year reception on Thursday, June 7.

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