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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Reading Program Expands to Include all of SLO County

SAN LUIS OBISPO - For the first time, Preface: The Cal Poly Shared Reading Program, is inviting the entire county of San Luis Obispo to join with new students for a common intellectual experience.

Since 2002, Preface has asked incoming freshmen and transfer students to read a pre-selected book over the summer as part of their university orientation experience. The students then review and discuss the book during Cal Poly's annual Week of Welcome with the help of volunteer discussion facilitators. This year's book is "The Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold.

Preface is again joining forces with the SLO City-County Library to recruit and train volunteers for the newly expanded countywide program. It will include several discussion sessions designed specifically for community members at various county library locations. The program also includes a free public reading and presentation by the author on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center’s Christopher Cohan Center.

Preface is actively seeking sponsorship for this year's program. Business and individuals can make either monetary or in-kind donations by visiting the Preface Web site at http://preface.calpoly.edu or by contacting Patricia Ponce at (805) 756-1380 or preface@calpoly.edu.

The program is also seeking volunteer book discussion leaders. To serve as a Preface discussion facilitator or find out more about the book or its author, visit http://www.preface.calpoly.edu. Click on "Volunteers," complete the "Preface Volunteer Registration Form," and attend a short information session. Discussion facilitators will meet with 12-15 new students during Cal Poly's annual Week of Welcome on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 20, to lead individual 75-minute discussion groups.

To participate in any of the community discussion groups, contact your local library for times and dates.

For more information about the community discussions contact Deborah Graf, acting assistant library director, at (805) 781-5990.

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