Cal Poly Students Win Design Competition

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SAN LUIS OBISPO-- Two recent graduates from Cal Poly's Landscape Architecture program are among the 2005 winners of the national Wayne Grace Memorial Student Design competition.

Cal Poly landscape architecture students Joshua Circle-Woodburn of Kula, Hawaii and Kathryn Hergenrather of San Luis Obispo were both awarded $1,000 from the competition's sponsor, the Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Foundation. It was the sixth annual Grace competition, and the Cal Poly students were among only four students honored for the landscape design plans which were their entries. Circle-Woodburn and Hergenrather graduated from Cal Poly in June, but submitted their entries before the competition deadline in May. The landscape foundation announced the awards in late September.

The purpose of the annual design competition is to gather outstanding examples that clearly demonstrate how the practice of landscape architecture and licensing affect the quality of life.

"We are very proud that two of our students won this award with exemplary sustainable design strategies," said Landscape Architecture Department Head Margarita Hill. "It's an important recognition of the 'learn-by-doing' model at Cal Poly. The links between education, professional practice and governmental policy are strongly developed here."

The judges found the Cal Poly students' winning entries covered a "wide-range of issues impacting public health, safety and welfare, many of which are not clearly seen or easily understood by the public and legislators."

Circle-Woodburn's project was titled: "Lokahi, A Culturally Centered Sustainable Resort." His entry united ancient Hawaiian cultural design elements with modern techniques for environmental preservation and protection. His plans called for construction using green building and sustainable design principles. Faculty advisors for Circle-Woodburn's project were Assistant Professor William MacElroy and lecturers Stratton Semmes and Astrid Reeves.

Hergenrather's project, "A Sustainable Redesign of the Cal Poly Equine Center," provided for a complete restructuring of the existing equine facility at the university in order to build a new, more efficient, environmentally responsible and enjoyable facility using sustainable design principles. "Katie was challenged with fully integrating the aspects of function, ecology, and art form, and she did so creatively," noted her year-long faculty advisor, Professor Omar Faruque.

The competition was open to any student or team of students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate Landscape Architectural Degree Program.

About the Cal Poly Landscape Architecture Program
The Landscape Architecture degree program is part of Cal Poly's nationally-recognized College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED). The landscape architecture program was ranked "Best in the West" and eighth nationally in an annual survey of professionals done by DesignIntelligence magazine. For more details on the program, visit its Web site at: http://www.calpoly.edu/~larc/. For more details about the CAED, visit its Web site at: http://www.caed.calpoly.edu/.

More about the Wayne Grace Memorial Student Design competition: