FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2003 Cardboard Boat Regatta Set for Sunday at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly architecture students will once again be soaking up valuable -- if unusual -- lessons in Cal Poly's Recreation Center Pool when they compete Sunday (Jan. 26) in the 2003 Cardboard Boat Regatta.

They will race their corrugated creations from 9:45 a.m. until about noon, rain or shine. Admission to the regatta is free, and the public is invited to watch the fun.

Visitors will be able to inspect the entries and talk with student designers at 9:30 a.m., just before the races begin. For a longer look, visitors can preview the boats and talk with the designers on the university's Dexter Lawn Friday (Jan. 24) from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

More than 50 students in a fundamental architectural design class have designed, constructed and will attempt to navigate vessels made from two 4-foot-by-6-foot sheets of cardboard, brown paper tape and clear polyurethane waterproofing. To qualify for the final, a craft must stay afloat through one qualifying heat.

The regatta's faculty advisors this year are Architecture professors Howard Weisenthal, James Bagnall and Mark Cabrinha.

Weisenthal said the one-week assignment combines problem-solving, construction detailing and documentation.

"And it will be one of their first exercises in taking responsibility for their design," he said.

San Luis Paper Co. Inc. of San Luis Obispo is joining the College of Architecture and Environmental Design as a new co-sponsor of the races.
"The Cardboard Boat Regatta is an excellent showcase of our product," said Doug Hoffman, president of San Luis Paper. The company is providing a post-race party for competitors and cash awards for the top three finishers.

Cal Poly Recreational Sports is hosting the event. For more information, call the Architecture Department at 756-1316, or, on Sunday, call Rec Sports at 756-1366 then press "0" for the operator.

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