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News Release

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Cal Poly Universities' 60th Rose Float 'Guardians of Harmony' Features Engineering Challenges, New Design Style and Range of Flowers

POMONA, Calif. — To celebrate the Cal Poly Rose Float's diamond anniversary, students will present a float featuring a fresh new style and challenging engineering components.

The Cal Poly Universities have developed a reputation for inspiring laughs with humorous float designs. This year's 60th consecutive entry into the Tournament of Roses Parade will use traditional Chinese elements and a working waterfall in order to inspire wonder instead.



Rendering of 60th Rose Float "Guardians of Harmony" available online at www.csupomona.edu/news

The 2008 float "Guardians of Harmony" features the watchful duo of a dragon and a phoenix. In addition to the two mythological creatures, the float depicts the Great Wall, a pagoda, cherry blossoms and carp. The float design is in line with "Passport to the World's Celebrations," the theme of the 119th Rose Parade.

"It's a big year, and for many of us it's our last float as students. We decided we're going to do everything we can to make sure it's special. We wanted to branch out and challenge ourselves," said Matthew Yeseta, Rose Float chair at Cal Poly Pomona.

In addition to the fresh design style, students will also take their animation up a notch.

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The phoenix will sway from side to side with its wings outstretched emulating flight. Three carp will appear to jump from a pool of water fed by a three-tier waterfall pumped at 180 gallons per minute. Students believe their biggest engineering feat will be using a new system to make the dragon appear to glide through the air. Using a complicated floating ring system to construct the dragon body, students hope audiences will notice the more lifelike effect the system has on the dragon body.

The decoration material for the float will feature a range of flowers, seeds and bark. Float watchers will also find split river cane, palm bark, orchids, poppy, Spanish moss, blue corn, sweet rice, flax seed, kumquat, kidney beans, cranberries, and orange slices throughout the float. The look of fur on the dragon's head and body will be achieved with yellow and orange "fire" celosia, blended bird of paradise and ornamental pepper. Its claws will be lunaria. Other materials on the dragon include red anthurim, yellow strawflower, orange lentil and lemon peel. The phoenix's wings will be blended bird of paradise, yellow strawflower and red carnations. Its tail includes the use of red ginger flower, and its feathers will be accented with blue statice.

The "Guardians of Harmony" float concept was rendered by Alejandro Angeles, a Cal Poly Pomona senior architecture major. Angeles, who hails from San Marcos, Calif., won the annual float concept contest in February and received a \$1,000 cash prize for his idea. Angeles gained inspiration for the design from a vacation he took to China last summer.

BACKGROUND

Students from the Cal Poly Universities in Pomona and San Luis Obispo have designed, constructed, decorated and financed entries in the Tournament of Roses Parade every year since 1949. Over the years, the floats have received 45 awards, including nine Founder's trophies for the best volunteer-built float.

The two campuses, located approximately 225 miles apart, manage to coordinate the effort to complete the float for each parade. Throughout a 12-month period, the student committees work closely together on their respective portions of the float to ensure it is built to specification.

Involvement in this project highlights the Cal Poly Universities' learn-by-doing philosophy as students develop these decorative floats from design conception to welding together steel and pasting petals to driving the contraption down Colorado Boulevard.

Late in the fall, the San Luis Obispo team transports its half to Cal Poly Pomona where both teams collaborate to complete the project. Just before New Year's Day, the campus community joins the Rose Float team to help them put the finishing floral touches on the float before its debut on Colorado Boulevard.

To learn more about the Rose Float project or to become a volunteer, visit www.cprosefloat.org.

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ABOUT CAL POLY POMONA — Striking the perfect balance between urban excitement and rural charm, Cal Poly Pomona is nestled in 1,428 rolling acres in the heart of sunny Southern California. With 2,600 faculty and staff to serve 20,000 students, Cal Poly Pomona's mission is to advance knowledge by linking theory and practice while preparing students for leadership and careers in a multicultural world. The university champions an approach that places learning at the center of every program, course, and activity on campus. Students are afforded opportunities to apply their knowledge through hands-on projects, collaborate with faculty members on research, and participate in valuable internships and service-learning programs. Seven colleges and one school offer 66 undergraduate and 21 graduate degrees, as well as eight credential programs.