

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE BOOK ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL ART AND POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

The Alabama Center for the Book, in partnership with the Auburn University Environmental Institute, Auburn University Libraries, Alabama Water Watch, and Auburn University College of Agriculture announce River of Words environmental poetry and art winners for 2007.

River of Words is a free, annual environmental poetry & art contest open to any child in the world, ages 5-19. Sponsored nationally by River of Words, in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book, and in Alabama by the Alabama Center for the Book and its partners, the contest invites students to explore the natural and cultural history of the rivers, lakes, and streams of Alabama and express through poetry and art what they discover.

Six students from Alabama were finalists in the art category: Grant Dohrenwend, Madison; Elana Ellington, Mobile; Sara Feldman, Birmingham; Karmen Gaines, Birmingham; Haylee Henry, Thorsby; Brittain Williams, Birmingham. State winners for Alabama are as follows:

Art

Level One (kindergarten through grade two): Gabrielle Lefranc, Lakewood Elementary, Phenix City (first place); Madison Redden, Lakewood Elementary, Phenix City (second place); Sam Adams, Lakewood Elementary, Phenix City (third place).

Level Two (grades three through six): Lauren Caudle, Madison Academy, Madison (first place); Ty Mann, Madison Academy, Madison (second place); Wil Mann, Madison Academy, Madison (third place); Mallory Lamm, Madison Academy, Madison (honorable mention); Natasha Henman, Madison Academy, Madison (honorable mention).

Level Three (grades seven through nine): Jordan Davis, The Altamont School, Birmingham (first place); Lauren Daley, Madison Academy, Madison (second place); Jessica Hill, Madison Academy, Madison (third place); Aaron Choi, Madison Academy, Madison (honorable mention); Cody O'Linger, Scottsboro (honorable mention).

Level Four (grades ten through twelve): Alex Yu, Florence High School, Florence (first place); Madalyn Ingram, Madison Academy, Madison (second place); Elisha Ellington, Mobile (third place); Elisha Ellington, Mobile (honorable mention); Katie Creasy, Florence High School, Florence (honorable mention).

Poetry

Level One (kindergarten through grade two): Kayleigh Green, Lakewood Elementary, Phenix City (first place); Cassidy Sharpe, Lakewood Elementary, Phenix City (second place); Hueston Nelson, Lakewood Elementary, Phenix City (third place); Ryan Bankston, Lakewood Elementary, Phenix City (honorable mention);

Level Two (grades three through six): Daniel McMahon, Advent Episcopal School, Birmingham (first place); Henry Bernard, Birmingham (second place); Rachel Hancock, Advent Episcopal School, Birmingham (third place); Dorothy Pate Simmons, Advent Episcopal School, Birmingham (honorable mention).

Level Three (grades seven through nine): Jon Powers, Cleveland High School, Cleveland (first place); Lydia Hackett, Cleveland High School, Cleveland (second place); Ryan Westmoreland, Cleveland High School, Cleveland (third place).

Level Four (grades ten through twelve): Erin Johnson, Jackson County 4-H, Scottsboro (first place); Carol Lee, Florence High School, Florence (second place); Amber Huett, Florence High School, Florence (third place); Elliot Broder, Florence High School, Florence (honorable mention).

The Alabama Center for the Book is a state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Housed at the Caroline Marshall Draughton Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, the Center sponsors programs around the state on books and reading. For more information on River of Words, visit <http://riverofwords.auburn.edu> or contact the Alabama Center for the Book at 334-844-4946.

(Contributed by Mark Wilson)

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