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For immediate release

Acadiana Writing Project announces winning student writers

LAFAYETTE, La. The Acadiana Writing Project has named 68 winners of its Second Annual *Writes of Spring* contest, a writing competition that attracted 750 entrants from schools across Acadiana.

Winners were chosen from junior and senior levels in poetry, nonfiction and fiction. Judges for the contest were Acadiana Writing Project teacher-consultants, according to Margaret Simon, contest coordinator.

Students will receive their awards on October 16 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Alumni House from 10 a.m. to noon. First place winners will be asked to read their winning entry and monetary prizes will be given to winners. Senior Division winners will receive \$50 for first place, second place \$25 and third place, \$15. In the Junior Division first place will receive \$20, second place \$15 and \$10 for third place. An anthology composed of all the winning writings from the *Writes of Spring* authors will be given to all contest winners as well.

The Junior League of Lafayette contributed \$1,800 in prize money for the competition through a grant written by Simon. According to Simon, who teaches at Ascension Day School, By valuing good writing, the Junior League encourages the continued teaching of writing in the classroom. Teachers, parents, and students will receive positive feedback on the art and authenticity of good writing. Students who receive a monetary prize, as well as see their own words in print, will develop positive self esteem that will follow them into their future.

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Writing Contest —Add 1

Winners, listed by category, ranking and school are as follows. Senior Division, grades 11-12. Poetry: 1, Blain Wilson, Acadiana High; 2, Peter Craig, Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade, La.; 3, Kaelyn Hebert, St. Thomas More High. Fiction: 1, Whitney Armentor, Catholic High, New Iberia, La.; 2, Madeline Boudreaux, St. Thomas More High; 3, Danielle Ducrest, Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade, La. Nonfiction: 1, Marissa Champagne, Catholic High, New Iberia, La.; 2, Erin Osborne, Lafayette High; 3, John Breaux, St. Thomas More High.

Senior Division, grades 9-10. Poetry: 1, Alex Brannon, Lafayette High; 2, Jeronimo Cordova, Acadiana High; 3, Dustin Draughon, Comeaux High. Fiction: 1, Matthew Smith, Catholic High, New Iberia, La.; 2, Tyler Guthrey, Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade, La.; 3, Hannah Cutrera, Acadiana High. Nonfiction: 1, Britney Leger, St. Thomas More High; 2, Hanna Cutrera, Acadiana High; 3, Lacey Malcombe, Comeaux High.

Senior Division, grades 7-8. Poetry: 1, Zeke Kalish-Reed, Home School; 2, Clelie Ancelet, Paul Breaux Middle School; 3, Elizabeth Stephenson, LJ Alleman Middle School; Honorable Mention, Keely McGibboney, LJ Alleman Middle School. Fiction: 1, Sheldon McIntosh, Ascension Day School; 2, Phillip Smith, Catholic High, New Iberia, La.; 3, Michael Breaux, Catholic High, New Iberia, La.; Honorable Mention, Emily Bush, LJ Alleman Middle School. Nonfiction: 1, Ben Bullock, Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade, La.; 2, Corey McZeal, LJ Alleman Middle School; 3, Meghan L. Taylor, LJ Alleman Middle School.

Senior Division, French. Poetry: 1, Rachel DeCuir, Lafayette High; 2, Emmanuelle Cote-Gingras, Paule Breaux Middle School; 3, Rachel DeCuir, Lafayette High.

Top winners from the Junior Division, listed by category, rank and school are as follows. Grades 5-6. Poetry: 1, Jacob Bellati, Ascension Day School; 2, Daniel Comeaux, Episcopal School of Acadiana, Cade, La.; 3, Andrea Stacy, Paul Breaux Middle School. Nonfiction: 1, Mary Wilkinson, Paul Breaux Middle School; 2, Daniel Smith, Paul Breaux Middle School; 3, Cail Boyd-Venable, Paul Breaux Middle School. There were no winners in the Fiction division.

Junior Division, grade 4. Poetry: 1, Katy Briggs, Broadmoor Elementary; 2, Rebecca Courvelle, Richard Elementary, Church Point, La. Fiction: 1, Sarah Fruge, Ascension Day School; 2, Rebecca Courvelle, Richard Elementary, Church Point, La.; 3, Chelsea LeJeune, Richard Elementary, Church Point, La. Nonfiction: 1, Chelsea LeJeune, Richard Elementary, Church Point, La.

Writing Contest—Add 2

Junior Division, grade 3. Poetry: 1, Abigail Claire Mosing, Our Lady of Fatima; 2, Tori Robichaux, Ascension Day School; 3, Sophie Stephan, Ascension Day School. Fiction: 1, Abigail Claire Mosing, Our Lady of Fatima; 2, Matthew Stuller, Ascension Day School. Nonfiction: 1, Morgan Darby, Ascension Day School; 2, Britain Forsyth, Ascension Day School.

Junior Division, grade 2. Poetry: 1, Joseph F. Karre, Home School; 2, Randa Ahmad, Ascension Day School; 3, Daniel Falgout, Ascension Day School. Fiction: 1, Joseph F. Karre, Home School; 2, Isabel Milton, Ascension Day School; 3, Samuel Leberg, Woodvale Elementary. Nonfiction: 1, Lindsey Woodson, Carencro Heights, Carencro, La.; 2, Sam Bacque, Ascension Day School; 3, McKenzi Dailey, Richard Elementary, Church Point, La.

Junior Division grade 1. Poetry: 1, Stuart Young, Home School, Broussard, La.; 2, Diamond Francis, Vermilion Elementary. Fiction: 1, Alexandra Gjertson, Our Lady of Fatima; 2, Jake Gaspard, Our Lady of Fatima; 3, Paul Veazey, Mt Carmel, Abbeville, La. Nonfiction: 1, Stuart Young, Home School, Broussard, La.

Junior Division French. Poetry: 1, Lauren Garrett, Paul Breaux Middle School; 2, Jennifer Bolling, Prairie Elementary. Nonfiction: 1, Megan Parker, Paul Breaux Middle School.

The Acadiana Writing Project is an affiliate of the National Writing Project. This program is designed to improve the writing and teaching of writing in the nation's schools, through the collaboration of schools and universities. A five-week Writing Institute for teachers is held each summer for teachers in order to work on their own writing and study recent composition theory. Workshops are held throughout the school year, so teachers can share their experience with other teachers. Through the Writing Institute and workshops held by teachers, classroom methods improve and teacher leadership is promoted.

The Acadiana Writing Project is funded by a grant from the National Writing Project to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Dr. Michael Maher, who heads the UL Lafayette communication department, is director of AWP. For more information contact Margaret Simon at lawpwrites@aol.com.

