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Cal Poly Announces 2006 Landwehr Creative Writing Contest Winners

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly graduate student Sarah Grieve and undergraduate Janice Edman, both English majors, have won the 2006 Al Landwehr Creative Writing Contest, which attracts the university’s best student poets and fiction writers.

Grieve’s poem “Blush,” about the son of an idiosyncratically fashionable woman, and Edman’s story “The Heat of Everyday,” about a Turkish immigrant family in Heidelberg, Germany, both took $100 first-place prizes.

According to contest director and English Professor Kevin Clark, very few people combine elegy and narrative as well as Grieve. “She’s one of the best writers in the creative writing program,” he said, “because she has an extraordinary ear. Many of her poems walk the line between sadness and astonishment.” Grieve is from Carpinteria.

Mary Kay Harrington, a contest judge and director of the university’s Writing Skills Program, said Edman’s work “has a mature voice, and instead of a narrow, small story, it opens up -- and then there’s irony, irony, irony.” Edman is from Alamo.

Cal Poly student-poets Kristin Sanders, an English major from Santa Maria, and Ruth Osario, an English major from Novato, won second and third place, respectively.

San Luis Obispo resident and English major Judith Barnes and Irvine resident and psychology major Jonathan Agiman won second and third place in fiction. Daniel Bethel, an English major from San Luis Obispo received an honorable mention in fiction.

Grieve, who is the starting center on Cal Poly’s Women’s Basketball Team, took second place last year in the contest; Sanders earned an honorable mention.

Two separate faculty judging committees, one for poetry and one for fiction, read the entries. Professors Carl Wooton, Mary Armstrong, and Bill Fitzhenry judged the poetry; Professors Larry Inchausti and Mark Roberts, along with Harrington, judged the fiction.

The students will read their winning works and receive prizes at the annual Landwehr Creative Writing Contest Awards Reading, to be held this year at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22, in the Sandwich Factory on campus. The poems and stories will be published in Cal Poly’s literary annual publication, “Byzantium,” which will be available for sale that night.

For more information, contact Professor Clark at 756-2506.

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