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POLY UNDERGRAD WINS ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS AWARD

SAN LUIS OBISPO - English student Lauren Henley won Cal Poly's 2008 Academy of American Poets Contest for her poem "Amelia" based on the iconic American aviator Amelia Earhart.

English student Sarah Suksiri earned an honorable mention for her poem "Sketches" about the passionate but isolated life of a man who never got over the loss of a love earlier in his life.

Henley's winning poem was lauded for the "spiraling narrative style that compels readers through several stages of emotion in a short period of time," said Kevin Clark, contest director. "The reader feels the adrenaline rush of flying."

Suksiri's worked was noted for her surprising choice of using paintings as active participants in the hermetic man's imagination life. "Her work takes sudden visual turns toward the interior," said Clark, "using persuasive language and layers of texture to communicate the poem's point of view."

Judged by poet Leslie St. John, the contest was sponsored by the Cal Poly English Department and the Academy of American Poets based in New York.

Henley and Suksiri are from Joshua Tree and Milpitas, Calif., respectively. Henley will receive a \$100 award and the winning poem will be published in the next year's issue of Moebius, a journal published by the College of Liberal Arts.

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