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Cal Poly Announces Winners of 2013 Landwehr Creative Writing Contest

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly's English Department awarded first place in the 2013 Al Landwehr Creative Writing Contest to English majors Whitney Lenet (Cayucos) and Ian Delaney (Walnut Creek).

About the death of a relative, Lenet's poem "Strawberry Crash" won in the poetry category; Delaney's "Madrid Story," about an unexpected pregnancy, won first place for fiction. Both students were awarded \$100.

According to contest director Kevin Clark, Lenet started writing sophisticated poems quickly. "She's among the best poets in the creative writing program," he said, "because she blends imagery and sound so well — and because her poems are readily accessible while offering multiple meanings."

Fiction judge Amy Wiley said Delaney developed "an uncommonly textured and contextually complex story." Her story spans countries, cultures and generations, providing an "unflinching yet compassionate account of the relationships between parents and children under circumstances at once humanly ordinary and politically extraordinary."

Ryan Duschak (Culver City) won second place and Eli Williams (Morro Bay) third for poetry. Sarah Brown (San Jose) and Veronica Flores (Fresno) earned second and third in fiction, respectively.

The contest is supported by poet and Cal Poly graduate Jocelyn Knowlton and her husband Bruce Knowlton.

Editors' choice entries included Cate Harkins (San Luis Obispo), Allie Rogge (San Mateo), and Kara Erickson (Kamuela, Hawaii) in poetry. Cate Harkins was the sole editors' choice in fiction.

The contest is named in honor of Al Landwehr, who taught fiction writing and literature at Cal Poly from 1970 to 2004. The competition is open to all Cal Poly students.

The entries were judged by English Department faculty. John Bartel, Megan Slocum and Dustin Stegner judged the poetry entries; Jennifer Ashley, Carol Curiel, Johanna Rubba, and Amy Wiley judged fiction.

The students will read their work and be presented with their prizes at the annual Creative Writing Contest Awards Reading May 25 at Sally Loo's coffee shop in downtown San Luis Obispo. The poems and stories will also be published in Cal Poly's literary annual *Byzantium*, which will be available free at the award presentations.

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