Cal Poly Annual Byzantium Creative Writing Contest Winners Announced

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Selected winners of the 2004 Cal Poly Creative Writing Contest will read from their prize-winning fiction and poetry during Open House at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Vista Grande restaurant.

Cal Poly selected eight students -- out of a record-breaking number of submissions -- as winners in this year's Creative Writing Contest.

The contest is divided into two categories: fiction and poetry. Melinda Moustakis of Bakersfield won first place in the fiction category for “Hunting the Kenai,” Katherine Finstuen of Morro Bay won second place for “Secretary of the Inferior,” Bonnie Lowe of San Luis Obispo won third for “The Book Group,” and Rachel Urbano of San Diego won the honorable mention award for “Looking In.”

In the poetry division, Kate Asche of Fair Oaks was the first-place winner for “This Is a Circle Line Train,” Kevin Cabaniss of Murrieta won second place for “This Pane,” Zach Snider of Novato won third for “Borges, Like Spectacles,” and Marnie Parker of San Luis Obispo won the honorable mention award for “Ode to Panties.”

Winners in both categories will have their work published in “Byzantium,” a literary annual that references a poem by William Butler Yeats titled “Sailing to Byzantium.” The annual emphasizes the artistic aspects of literature. The 2004 issue of “Byzantium” will be available for purchase at the reading.

For more information on “Byzantium” and the English Department, go online to http://cla.calpoly.edu/engl/createwrite.html.

The reading is free and open to the public. “Byzantium” and the reading are sponsored by Cal Poly’s College of Liberal Arts.

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