Cal Poly Students Earn Academy of American Poets Award

SAN LUIS OBISPO – English student Kathryn Sugar won Cal Poly’s 2011 Academy of American Poets Contest for her poem “Communion.” She will be awarded $100 for the win.

English students Amber Brodie and Sierra Jahoda earned honorable mentions for their poems “The One Whose Name Was Writ in Water” and “Weather-Worn Abs in the Town of Gym,” respectively.

Sugar’s poem is in the voice of a mother whose child has been kidnapped and possibly murdered. The judge noted a confidence in Sugar’s writing that conveyed emotional impact and mature imagery, as in the lines: "My Christina imagines she's a chrysanthemum, begging for blossom from the clay cavity cradling her."

The contest was judged by award-winning poet Eleanor Lerman.

The contest is sponsored by Cal Poly’s English Department and the Academy of American Poets.

The winning poem will be published in the quarterly literary journal Moebius, produced by Cal Poly’s College of Liberal Arts.

To read the winning poems, go to http://cla.calpoly.edu/engl_honorablementions.html

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