Saddleback College to Honor High School Writing Contest Winners

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College will recognize the winners of its 18th Annual Writing Contest for High Schools at a reception on Thursday, April 2nd at 4:00 p.m. in room 212 of the Student Services Center. Having received more than 230 individual entries from 16 high schools in south Orange County, Saddleback College will honor twelve high school students for their work in four categories: poetry, critical essay, personal essay, and short story. The winners, their parents, and their teachers will be present at the reception.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “Congratulations to our writing contest winners, who have shown remarkable aptitude in a skill that will benefit them both educationally and professionally throughout their lives. Moreover, I’d like to thank English Professor Jeffrey Clark for his hard work in putting this event together to promote the art of writing.”

English Professor Jeffrey Clark stated, “I’m very impressed with the quality of writing from these students, and I’m very pleased that we’ve received entries from more high schools than ever before. I thank the high school teachers for promoting the contest to their students, who have shown an amazing amount of talent this year.”

Sponsored by the Saddleback College Associated Student Government, the Saddleback College Writing Contest for High Schools was established to foster good writing, to recognize and reward local young writers, and to introduce high school students to the Saddleback College community. First place winners in each category receive $100, second place winners receive $50, and third place winners receive $25.

The winners of the writing contest are as follows:

**Poetry**

*First Place:*
“Self Reliance Revisited”
Author: Dante Belletti
School: Aliso Niguel High School
Teacher: Mrs. Lori Frome

Second Place:
“Lunch Time Feud”
Author: Jungyeon Won
School: Capistrano Valley Christian Schools
Teacher: Mrs. Macnider

Third Place:
“Zenith”
Author: Juliana Artemow
School: Aliso Niguel High School
Teacher: Mrs. Kent

Critical Essay

First Place:
“Charlie Cong’s War”
Author: Derek Sandblom
School: Aliso Niguel High School
Teacher: Mrs. Klasna

Second Place:
“The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Analysis of Setting and Theme”
Author: Michelle Pani Razavi
School: El Toro High School
Teacher: Mr. Shields

Third Place:
“Plank First, Then Speak: A Response to Chinua Achebe’s ‘An Image of Africa’”
Author: Kelly Causky
School: Capistrano Valley High School

Personal Essay

First Place:
“To Catch a Thief”
Author: Nancy Benner
School: Sage Hill School
Teacher: Mr. Parker

Second Place:
“A Window of Beauty and Color”
Author: George Carpenter
School: San Clemente High School  
Teacher: Mrs. J. Morris  

Third Place:  
“Life Lessons of a Bag Boy”  
Author: Robert Hutchinson  
School: Capistrano Valley Christian Schools  
Teacher: Miss Amanda Strader

Short Story

First Place:  
“Sky”  
Author: Shannon Kiang  
School: Capistrano Valley High School  
Teacher: Mrs. Jewel Kamita

Second Place:  
“I’ll Write You”  
Author: Malena Carollo  
School: El Toro High School  
Teacher: Mr. Shields

Third Place:  
“The Escape”  
Author: Molly Robertson  
School: Capistrano Valley Christian Schools  
Teacher: Mrs. Haney

Located in Mission Viejo, Saddleback College provides quality higher education and training to the greater south Orange County community. Having served more than 500,000 students since 1968, Saddleback College offers more than 300 degree and certificate programs to help students reach their personal, career, and educational goals. For more information, please visit www.saddleback.edu.

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