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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—May 21, 2010

GUERIN PREP STUDENTS AMONG WINNERS IN HOLOCAUST, WORDMASTERS, LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE AND FATHERHOOD CONTESTS

Students in English classes at Guerin College Preparatory High School, River Grove, have been scoring high in essay contests and literary challenges this semester, including the winner of the Leo & Antonia Gershanov Memorial Student Essay Contest.

Holocaust

Senior Taylor Greene of River Grove, one of 10 finalists from among 250 entries in the 2010 Leo & Antonia Gershanov Memorial Student Essay Contest sponsored by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, was announced as the first place winner during a ceremony May 16 at the museum. She earned a \$2,500 scholarship.

The students were asked to write about what steps they would take to rid the world of genocide in their lifetimes and among the judges was Paul Rusesabagina, real-life hero of the acclaimed film “Hotel Rwanda.” He joined participants at the awards ceremony via live streaming video and made reference to Taylor’s essay.

In answer to the theme, “One Person Can Make a Difference: Eliminating Genocide in My Lifetime,” Taylor wrote: Rosa Parks sitting on the bus, Gandhi’s peaceful resistance... their actions sparked revolutions. It is not good enough to merely inform; we have to astonish them; we need to tap into their emotions; we need to light the flame. We need to end the harm that our “brothers and sisters” are enduring. This chain of events needs to hit hard and it needs to hit fast. It needs to grasp the world’s attention head on. It has to be as full-size as the genocides that have passed and as the genocides that are happening. It must have the power to change. It must have the influence to save. It. Must. Be. A. Phenomenon.”

WordMasters

Freshman Anisa Bravo of Chicago placed among the 162 highest-scoring ninth graders in the entire country, making only two mistakes in the analysis of a short story by Mary

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2—Guerin Prep Contest Winners

Robison. More than 52,000 students from 46 American states and three foreign countries entered the meet.

English teacher Marilyn Skowron oversees Guerin Prep's participation.

The premise behind the WordMasters Challenge is that attentive reading and sensitivity to language are among the most important skills students acquire in school.

Letters to Literature Contest

Six Guerin Prep AP students finished in the top 10 percent of the 733 Level III entries received in Illinois for the Letters to Literature contest: Seniors Klaudia Kupinska, Clintnetta Lewis, and Dominica Walczak and Marcie Wiklanski, all of Chicago; and Kasha Cukier of Elmwood Park, Rachel Holowicki of Franklin Park.

The contest is a national reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress that challenges young readers to write a personal letter of reflection to an author whose work somehow inspired them or changed their view of the world or themselves. Writers are urged to use the letter format because it is less formal than an essay or research paper to write honestly in their own voice as if they were having a conversation with the author.

Fatherhood Contest

Guerin Prep had seven semi-finalists in the annual Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI)/White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest. They were among the 156 semi-finalists chosen from among more than 18,000 entries writing about "What My Father Means to Me." The students may write about their father, stepfather, grandfather or other father-figure.

The GP semi-finalists are Justine Colon, Elysha Alvarado, Jeanette Fonseca, Will Torres, Gina Cline and Kathy Igluk, all of Chicago; and Kalie DiNunno of Roselle.

In addition to a certificate of participation and coupons for a White Sox game, these students and their guests have been invited to participate in the IFI Faces of Fatherhood Celebration Picnic on May 22.

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