



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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CREATE EVENT SHOWCASED TEEN TALENT

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 21, 2009) – Teens and talent had top billing at Marion County Public Library System Headquarters-Ocala location on Saturday, Oct. 17, for the inaugural CREATE event. CREATE, which stands for Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy Teen Event, showcased the accomplishments of Marion County teens, ages 13 to 18, in music, art and film making.

In the fine arts category, teens submitted two and three dimensional art in painting, drawing, photography, digital art, mixed media, textiles and sculpture mediums. The winners included:

- First place: Victoria de Aranzeta for her Bekatari “Sinner,” “Bobby” and “Saturday Night Take-Out” entries.
- Second place: Christina Thompson for “Fairy Luna,” “Girl of a Thousand Things” and “My Mind, My Life.”
- Third place: Owen Cooper for “Arch Enemy,” “The Beginning” and “Crimson Thunder.”
- People’s Choice Award: Sam Dugger for “Lightning in the Mountains,” “Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Home” and “Treasure.”

In the filmmakers’ category, teens submitted original film entries for consideration. The winners included:

- First place: A’shanti Meghoo-Neil, Daniela Arango, Alana Brunson, Ryan Tuten and Riley Ferrer for their film about the Holocaust.
- Second place: Tyler Bennett for “Skateboarding Is...”
- Third place: Travis Bennett for “Extreme Makeover: Locker Edition.”
- People’s Choice Award: Ricky and Jonathan Marrero for “Speculation.”

Winners in the Battle of the Bands competition included:

- First place: “It Hit Us”
- Second place: “A Hope for Tomorrow”
- Third place: “Fear to Fail”

The Friends of the Ocala Public Library provided cash prizes to finalists in all categories. First place winners received \$200. Second place winners received \$150. Third place winners received \$100, and the People’s Choice Award recipients received \$75.

More than 40 teen writers also participated in the Teen Writers Conference that featured Nancy Yi Fan as keynote speaker. Fan, the New York Times bestselling author of *Swordbird*, was first published when she was 10 years old. As a junior at Eastside High School in Gainesville, Fan is now 16 and working on her third book. Teens submitted their original work through their teachers or on their own, and CREATE Mentors, professional writers from the community, met with the teen writers, critiqued their work and discussed writing tips.

The Friends of the Ocala Public Library, Marion County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Ocala sponsored the event. Marion County Public Schools, Passion Recording Studio, Re/Max Allstars Realty, Best Buy, Appleton Museum of Art, Central Florida Community College, Tijuana Flats, Firehouse Subs, McCallister Deli, Red Swan Paint and Art, Cici’s Pizza, Papa John’s Pizza, Publix, Subway, Sonny’s Real Pit Barbeque, AMF Bowling Centers, Dunkin Donuts, Barnes and Noble Booksellers and Golden Flake co-sponsored the event. For more information about CREATE or other Marion County Public Library programs, call (352) 671-8551 or visit <http://library.marioncountyfl.org>.

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