



NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, May 14, 2007

CONTACT: Karen Hamilton
ph. 207.767.0116 ext 4 or
Ellyn Chase, ph. 207.629.4007

Seven Students Named Semifinalists in MCCS *Journey Into Writing* Contest

AUGUSTA, Maine — Seven Maine high school juniors will find out on May 23rd if their written words will earn them a prestigious honor — to be named one of Maine’s three “Young Writers of the Year” — and a generous cash award.

The students have been named semifinalists in the Maine Community College Systems’ *Journey Into Writing* contest—a statewide writing contest for high school juniors. Their work was chosen from more than 231 entries from 85 high schools throughout Maine.

The semifinalists are: **Julia Bald** of Brunswick High School; **Alex Forsythe** of Richmond High School; **Max HoddWells** of Maranacook High School; **George Murray** of South Portland High School; **Aimée St. James** of Brunswick High School; **Siobhan Smith** of Freeport High School; and **Anna Whiston** of Kennebunk High School. The semifinalists’ submissions can be viewed on the contest Web site at writing.mccs.me.edu.

Celebrated Maine authors Richard Russo, Linda Greenlaw, and Wesley McNair are the contest judges. They are expected to join Governor John E. Baldacci and sponsors of the contest at a luncheon ceremony to announce the three winners on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center in Hallowell beginning at 11:30 a.m. At the event, all seven semifinalists will receive \$100 and a plaque. In addition, the three winners of the contest will each receive \$2,500.

The event program is as follows:

11:30 am — 12:00 pm	Welcome by Dr. John Fitzsimmons, President of the MCCS. Remarks by Governor Baldacci and recognition of seven semifinalists.
12:00 — 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 — 1:30 pm	Remarks by contest judges Richard Russo, Linda Greenlaw, and Wesley McNair. Announcement of the three winners by Susan Gendron, Maine’s Commissioner of Education and Governor Baldacci.

**Note to media: We suggest arriving at 12:30 pm.
Written directions included below.**

This is the third year of the contest, which is run by the Maine Community College System (MCCS). Sponsors include the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*, *MaineToday.com*, and U.S. Cellular.

The Journey Into Writing contest is open to all high school juniors and home-schooled students of the same age. To enter the contest, students submitted a short story, essay or poem of up to 1,500 words during the submission period of October 1 to December 1, 2006. The semifinalists were selected by a review committee from the Maine Community College System.

— end —

DIRECTIONS TO MAPLE HILL FARM BED & BREAKFAST INN

A detailed map can be found at www.MapleBB.com/map.jpg:

From the South: Take I-95 North. You will then need to take an exit just south of Portland onto I-295 north at Exit 44, or north of Portland at Exit 52 onto the Falmouth Spur over to I-295 north. Continue taking I-295 north which reconnects with I-95 north just south of Augusta, and continue on I-95 north. Take Exit 109, the first Augusta Exit, off I-95.

From the North: Take Exit 109A, the last Augusta Exit, off I-95. (Don't take Exit 109B, since this just misses the next turn!)

Then, from either direction: Stay in the left lane on the exit ramp for Route 202 West (toward Winthrop), then as soon as you get onto Route 202 West, scoot right over into the left turn lane and take a left turn onto Whitten Road (at the first traffic light only a few hundred feet from the end of the exit ramp). Then just watch carefully for our blue and white signs directing you through a series of turns during the next 4 miles to Maple Hill Farm Bed and Breakfast on the Inn Road (our driveway) off the Outlet Road in Hallowell.

Alternate Directions:

From Downtown Augusta rotary, take Route 201 South about 1 1/2 miles (or From Downtown Gardiner, take Route 201 North about 4 miles), then turn away from the river onto Central Street in Downtown Hallowell at the Clock (right turn from Augusta, left turn from Gardiner) and proceed about 3 miles, following the blue and white signs to Maple Hill Farm Bed and Breakfast on the Inn Road (our driveway) off the Outlet Road in Hallowell.