



NEWS RELEASE

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**Students from Brunswick and Kennebunk High Schools  
Chosen as “Governor’s Young Writers of the Year”**

HALLOWELL, Maine — Three Maine high school juniors — Julia Bald of Brunswick, Aimée St. James of Brunswick, and Anna Whiston of Kennebunkport — were honored today as the 2007 Governor’s Young Writers of the Year. Maine authors Richard Russo, Linda Greenlaw, and Wesley McNair served as judges for the Maine Community College System’s “A Journey Into Writing” program, a statewide contest open to all high school juniors in Maine.

The three winning entries were chosen from 231 submissions from 85 Maine high schools. Governor John E. Baldacci participated in a luncheon ceremony today to announce the three winners and honor all seven semifinalists. The students came from around the state with family members and teachers to attend the event at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. Also attending were representatives of the program sponsors: the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, MaineToday.com, and U.S. Cellular.

Governor Baldacci praised the work of each of the semifinalists saying: “I’ve read each of your pieces, and I’ve been so impressed by the work you’ve done and the thoughts you’ve given voice to. This writing award is a way to draw more attention to the talent of our young people and the importance of writing.”

Wesley McNair, one of the contest judges and the author of eight collections of poetry, spoke to the audience of “the talent of this gang of seven.” And noted: “It was such pleasure for all of us to read these works and to discover the lively imagination and the skills of these young writers on the page.”

Along with earning the title “Governor’s Young Writer of the Year,” each of the three winners received a check for \$2,500.

The other semifinalists were: Alex Forsythe of Richmond High School, Max HoddWells of Maranacook High School, George Murray of South Portland High School, and Siobhan Smith of Freeport High School. Each of the semifinalists received a plaque and check for \$100.

“A Journey Into Writing” is open to all high school juniors and home-schooled students of the same age. To enter the contest, students submit a short story, essay, or poem of up to 1,500 words. More information about the contest, including the top seven entries, is available at [writing.mccs.me.edu](http://writing.mccs.me.edu).

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