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OHIOANA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FIRST ROBERT FOX AWARDS FOR YOUNG WRITERS

Columbus, OH – April 13, 2007 – The Ohioana Library Association has had a long history of fostering, nurturing, and recognizing young writers. For more than twenty-five years, Ohioana sponsored the Lucille Loy Kuck Awards for Creative Writing Excellence for Ohio high school students. Due to lack of funding, the program was discontinued in 2003. The friends and family of Robert Fox, a writer and poet, felt that there was no better way to honor him than to establish the Robert Fox Memorial Endowment to help Ohioana institute a new contest to encourage young writers. Robert Fox (1943-2005) served as the Ohio Arts Council's first poet in the schools and then became literary coordinator for the OAC, a position he held for more than 20 years. Robert was the recipient of the 1982 Ohioana Citation for his contributions to literature and later served on Ohioana's board. The Endowment is not yet large enough to sustain the Fox Awards, so the Ohio Barnes and Noble Book Stores and the friends and family of Robert Fox have provided funding for this year's program.

"Ohioana is proud to continue Bob's legacy of nurturing young aspiring writers through this program for Ohio high school students," said Linda Hengst, executive director of Ohioana. "It is a great pleasure to announce this year's winners of the Robert Fox Awards for Young Writers."

Sophia Antoun, a student at **Bexley High School**, will receive the **first place prize in prose** for her entry "Arabian Nights." Her sponsoring teacher is Denise Novak. **Alexander Kinsel**, a student at **Perkins High School (Sandusky, OH)**, will receive the **second place prize in prose** for his entry "Sketches." His sponsoring teacher is Mary Jo Napholz. **Rachel Peck**, a student at **Bexley High School**, will receive the **third place prize in prose** for her entry "Batting a Thousand." Her sponsoring teacher is Denise Novak. **First place prize for poetry** will go to

Molly Gabriel, a student at **Vermilion High School** for her entry “Mozart’s Quiet Wife.” Her sponsoring teacher is Elliot Nicely. **Second place for poetry prize** will go to **Philip Krupansky**, a student at **Maplewood Career Center (Ravenna, OH)** for his entry “I Should Have Been English, Or at Least German.” His sponsoring teacher is Scott Parsons. No third place poetry prize will be given this year.

The students will receive their awards on April 28th at a special recognition program for young writers at the Ohio Center for the Book located in the Cleveland Public Library at 325 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. The program will begin with a presentation by nationally known and award winning children’s author Shelley Pearsall. In addition to the presentation of the Ohioana Fox Awards, the statewide winners of the Letters about Literature contest will also receive their awards.

The Ohioana Library Association is a not-for-profit organization supported by memberships, subscriptions, grants, and gifts. Ohioana also receives a subsidy from the state of Ohio. Ohioana is dedicated to fostering, nurturing, recognizing, and promoting Ohio writers, musicians and artists, and promoting and preserving the literary legacy of Ohio.