

“GOING FOR THE GOLD...”

# Congratulations to Winners and Participants in the 2007 Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and Sign Contest



In an exciting collaboration with the 2007 Winter Deaflympics Organizing Committee, the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center asked deaf and hard of hearing students what “going for the gold” means to them. Over 300 students from around the country entered the Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and Sign Contest to describe how they “go for the gold” in their lives.

The Clerc Center and the 2007 Winter Deaflympics Organizing Committee also teamed up to create an

educational website and a live (from February 1-10) blog during the Deaflympics. Top contest winners received combo tickets for themselves and an accompanying adult to all the events in the Winter Deaflympics. Winners Kevlasha Humphrey and Gabriela Perrusquia, from Jacksonville, Illinois, Shara Winesburg from Fremont, California, Gina De Naples from Jamestown, North Carolina, and Kylei Brooks from Olathe, Kansas were able to come and enjoy their free tickets.

For more information, check out: <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu/deaflympics>.

### The Contest Results

Timothy Worthylake, contest co-coordinator commented, “The nation’s classrooms are filled with deaf and hard of hearing students who have set meaningful personal goals—and who are working hard to fulfill those goals. They used the contest to explore their feelings about themselves and their ‘gold,’ through writing, art, and American Sign

Language.”

The Clerc Center and the 2007 Winter Deaflympics Organizing Committee awarded the top three winners in each contest category two combo tickets to the Deaflympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition, winners in the essay contest earned scholarship money which will be doubled for those who elect to attend Gallaudet University.

Winning essay and art entries were published in *Celebrate!*, the Clerc Center’s annual showcase magazine of the work of deaf and hard of hearing students. An audiovisual show of the top essay, art, and American Sign Language category winners was displayed at the Deaflympics Expo on February 2 and 3. The art entries are currently on display at the Linda K. Jordan Art Gallery at Gallaudet University.

Worthylake expressed appreciation to all participants, winners, and judges. Here is a listing:

### IN THE WRITING CATEGORY

#### JUDGES:

- Mary Ellen Carew, MA, is a published writer and managing editor in the Office of Public Relations and Publications at the Clerc Center.



GINA DE NAPLES



MOLLY HAYWOOD



JON GABRY



SHUBHANGI AGRAWAL



**HANNAH BARTINI**

- Gina Oliva, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at Gallaudet University and the author of *Alone in the Mainstream: A Deaf Woman Remembers Public School*.
- Madan Vasishta, PhD, an associate professor at Gallaudet University, administered several schools for deaf students until he retired in 2000. The author of five books and over 50 articles, he is working on a historical novel and a sequel to his memoirs.



**GLADYZ VILLALOBOS**

- WINNERS:**
- Kevlasha Humphrey**  
First Place  
Jacksonville, Illinois
  - Shara Winesburg**  
Second Place  
Fremont, California
  - Gina De Naples**, Third Place  
Jamestown, North Carolina
  - Molly Haywood**  
Honorable Mention  
Batavia, Illinois
  - Jon Gabry**  
Honorable Mention  
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey



**CHRIS MILLER**

- AnMarie Rainey**  
Judges' Choice  
Irvine, California
- Shubhangi Agrawal**  
Judges' Choice  
Fremont, California



**MONICA KELLER**

studio artist who works in collage and acrylic mediums and owns an art gallery. See her work at [www.barbarahardawaystudio.com](http://www.barbarahardawaystudio.com).



**Opposite page, top left:** Winner Gina DeNaples and Kylei Brooks with *Celebrate!* at the DEAFLYMPICS. **Opposite page, top right:** Timothy WorthyLake and Andrea Feldman greeted visiting students. **Above:** Donalda Ammons, General Secretary of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, greeted Gabriela Perrusquia and Kevlasha Humphrey.

**Hannah M. Bartini**  
Judges' Choice  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

**Gladyz Villalobos**  
Judges' Choice  
Tucson, Arizona

**IN THE ART CATEGORY**

**JUDGES:**

- Scott Carollo, MFA, is an assistant professor in the Art Department at Gallaudet University.
- Barbara Hardaway, PhD, is a professor of English at Gallaudet University and a

- Shawn Richardson, BA, is production assistant with the magazine of the National Historical Trust.

**WINNERS:**  
**Chris Miller**  
First Place  
Knoxville, Tennessee

**Monica Keller**  
Second Place  
Rochester, New York

**Gabriela Perrusquia**  
Third Place  
Jacksonville, Illinois

## NEWS



**GABRIELA PERRUSQUIA**

Courtney Herrera  
Honorable Mention  
Jacksonville, Illinois

Krystal Starks,  
Honorable Mention  
Jacksonville, Illinois

Andrea Echavarria  
Judges' Choice  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Robert Bradley  
Judges' Choice  
Staunton, Virginia

Debbie Salamanca  
Editor's Award  
Frederick, Maryland

Samantha Lynton  
Editor's Award  
San Antonio, Texas

Donte Thomas  
Editor's Award  
Frederick, Maryland

Kevlasha Humphrey  
Editor's Award  
Jacksonville, Illinois

Tamarris Denwon Parks  
Editor's Award  
Clover, South Carolina



**ROBERT BRADLEY**



**COURTNEY HERRERA**

### IN THE SIGN CATEGORY:

#### JUDGES:

- **Dennis Berrigan, MA**, is the American Sign Language Center coordinator at the Clerc Center. He works with national mission projects and serves as sign master.

- **Gary Brooks, BA**, was the first Gallaudet University student to receive the National Film Award. He works for Gallaudet's Academic Technology, Television and Media Production Services, and owns Blue Apple Production/Gary Brooks Studio.

- **Sanremi LaRue-Atuonah, MSW**, is an instructional supervisor for Tutorial and Instructional Programs at Gallaudet University and a doctoral candidate in the Special Education: Administration and Supervision program.



**CHRISTOPHER KEARNEY**



**KRYSTAL STARKS**

- **Jane Norman, PhD**, an Emmy-award winning producer and advocate in filmmaking for many years, is professor of Communications at Gallaudet University. She is also known as an international speaker on deaf cinema.

- **Nancy Walla, MA**, a former Peace Corps volunteer, taught deaf students for 20 years and worked as an adjunct teacher at a variety of colleges before coming to the Clerc Center where she teaches classes in American Sign Language.

#### WINNERS:

**Christopher Kearney**,  
First Place  
Austin, Texas

**Kylei Brooks**  
Second Place  
Olathe, Kansas

**Maria Solovey**  
Third Place  
Washington, D.C.



**KYLEI BROOKS**



**ANDREA ECHAVARRIA**

Calvin Young  
Honorable Mention  
Austin, Texas

Wolfgang Staley  
Most Inspirational  
Washington, D.C.

Brooke Harper  
Judges' Choice  
Olathe, Kansas

Drew C. Meade  
Most Creative  
Danville, Kentucky

Da'Shawn Owens  
Most Promising  
Fulton, Missouri

In next year's contest, the Clerc Center will again ask deaf and hard of hearing students throughout the country to respond to an important theme through writing, art, or sign language. The theme is: "YES, I can!" For more information, visit <http://contest.gallaudet.edu>.



**DA'SHAWN OWENS**