

EMBARGOED FOR November 10, 2015

## THE WINNERS OF NORMAN MAILER CENTER'S 2015 STUDENT AND TEACHER WRITING AWARDS

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony president and co-founder Lawrence Schiller, in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), today announced this year's recipients of the Norman Mailer Student and Teacher Writing Awards. More than 3,000 middle and high school teachers, high school students, community college students, and four-year college students submitted entries for the 2015 awards.

This year's winner of the Middle and High School Teacher Creative Nonfiction Writing Award is **Josh Davis** of Beachwood High School in Beachwood, Ohio. Students winning awards for their writing are **Eric Boodman**, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut (Four-Year College Creative Nonfiction); **Jacob Pomainville**, State University of New York Adirondack in Queensbury, New York (Community College Creative Nonfiction); **Alex-Qua Pham**, Marymount Manhattan College, New York, New York (College Poetry); and **Madeline Kim**, Polytechnic School, La Canada, California (High School Creative Nonfiction).

Each recipient will receive their prize and a cash award on Thursday, December 10, during the Mailer Center awards celebration at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, where Norman Mailer lived for over 40 years.

**The National Council of Teachers of English** (<http://www.ncte.org>), with 30,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education.

**The Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony** (<http://www.nmwcolony.org>) in partnership with the **Pratt Institute** is dedicated to nurturing generations of future writers in honor of Mailer's contributions to culture and letters. By providing monetary, educational, and professional support, the Center encourages writers to develop the passion, skill, and commitment to their craft that Mailer exhibited during his six-decade writing career. The Center encourages, assists, and celebrates emerging writers who challenge conventional and comfortable views of reality, supporting writers who are endlessly curious, mentally nimble, and committed to enriching the consciousness of their readers through the excellence of their work. The Center promotes a vision of writers as activists who believe, in Mailer's words, that writing is "a noble pursuit, that ideally it profoundly changes the ways in which people perceive their experience." The Center honors the creative legacy of Mailer by encouraging early and mid-career writers of all genres who embrace the values that drove Mailer's work; namely, writers who fully exercise their creativity; who apply themselves to the craft of writing with the rigor of an athlete; who wish to reach a broad audience through their work; and who relish dialogue and debate. Through its work, the Center aims to preserve the role of the engaged writer as not only a legitimate, but an indispensable voice in contemporary dialogue.

**CONTACT:** For further details on the Awards, please visit <http://www.ncte.org/awards/nmwa> or contact Lori Bianchini at NCTE ([lbianchini@ncte.org](mailto:lbianchini@ncte.org); 217-278-3644).