

Kentucky elementary and high school students win national awards

Special to the Ledger

MURRAY, Ky. — Daniel Crouse, first-grade student from Concord Elementary School in Paducah, and Kaitlyn Steward, 12th-grade student from Union County High School in Morganfield, each won a second-place award at the national level in the recent Illustrated Poem Contest sponsored by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS.

The American Chemical Society is the world's largest scientific society with more than 161,000 members. ACS is a leading source of authoritative scientific information. A nonprofit organization chartered by Congress, ACS is at the forefront of the evolving worldwide chemical enterprise and the premier professional home for chemists, chemical engineers and those in related professions around the globe.

The Kentucky Lake Section (KLS) is one of the 187 local chapters of the ACS in the United States. Dr. Bommanna Loganathan, professor of chemistry at Murray State University, is the chair of the Kentucky Lake Section of the ACS.

Loganathan is also the coordinator for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED), a community-based event that takes place on or around April 22 each year. CCED unites ACS local sections, businesses, schools and individuals in communicating the positive role of chemistry and raising environmental awareness. As part of the CCED 2014 celebration, students from grades K-12 were invited to share their interpretations in the form of illustrated poems of this year's theme, "The Wonders of Water." Winners at the local level qualified for the national contest.

Students from regional schools — Murray, Mayfield, Paducah and Morganfield in Kentucky, along with Martin, Union City and Jackson in Tennessee, participated in the illustrated poem contest. More than 40 students submitted illustrated poems in three categories: K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 9-12, with KLS members judging the entries. Tennessee State Sen.

Lowe Finney presented the winners with their awards during the April meeting of KLS in Jackson, Tenn.

Winners at the local level were:

K-2

1st place: Daniel Crouse, Grade 1, Concord Elementary School in Paducah.

2nd place: Katey Johnston, Grade 2, home schooled in Murray.

Grades 3-5

1st place: Katherine Glisson, Grade 4, Clark Elementary School in Paducah.

2nd place (tie): Rohan Das, Grade 3, Murray Elementary School in Murray, and Frannie Hideg, Grade 4, Clark Elementary School in Paducah.

Grades 9-12

1st place: Kaitlyn Steward, Grade 12, Union County High School in Morganfield.

2nd place (tie): Whitney Workman, Grade 12, Calloway County High School in Murray, and both Cera Crook and LeAnn Mackey, Grade 12, Union County High School in Morganfield.

All winners advanced to the national level of the contest, where Crouse and Steward both placed second. The winners' poem entries can be viewed at the American Chemical Society's website at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/cced/cced-illustrated-poem-contest/2014-poem-contest-winners>.

"Among 187 local chapters throughout the United States, our young chemists in the local Kentucky Lake Section received two national-level awards," Loganathan said. "This is a significant accomplishment. To my knowledge, this is the first time our KLS students have received a national award."

For additional information on the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society, go online at kentuckylake.sites.acs.org.