Essay contest advocates Thomas Jefferson principles

Ashley Feibish

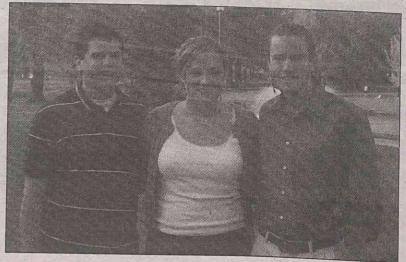
Editor in Chief

Participants of the ninth annual Philip L. Carret "Thomas Jefferson Essay Competition" were honored at a reception and dinner in the Isabella Cannon Room in the Center for the Arts Wednesday night.

The contest was established in 1997 after Carret, a 1917 graduate of Harvard, visited Elon in 1996 at the age of 99. Carret endowed the annual essay competition to "have students reflect on the ideals and principles embodied in Thomas Jefferson's life and career," according to a brochure containing the rules and history of the contest.

Ian Henderson was awarded first place, which included a \$1,000 cash award and an invitation to Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello.

"We feel honored to be part of the essay contest," said Dan Jordan, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. "We've always enjoyed hosting the winning student ... Our hope is that it will enhance students' knowledge



Brittanie Schroyer/ Photographer

Ian Henderson, Jess Keough and Zach Lauritzen placed first, second and third respectively in the ninth annual Thomas Jefferson essay contest.

of Thomas Jefferson."

During the visit to Monticello, Henderson will meet with the scholars in residence and be recognized in a public program, Jordan said.

"I'm very excited to visit Monticello again," Henderson said. "It will be a different experience."

Henderson said he was inspired to enter the contest after developing an interest for the curriculum.

"I think (the contest) adds to the academic ethos," said Mark Albertson, registrar and assistant to the provost. "Written communication is very important. Anything that advances scholarship and enhances writing is for the betterment of the institution."

Jess Keough received the second place award of \$600 and Zach Lauritzen earned third-place recognition and \$400.

Fifteen students submitted

this year's question, which read, associate dean of the Love Scho "From the beginning of American of Business, Richard McBric experiment, Thomas Jefferson insisted upon the freedom of the press, confiding in 1786 to John Jay that 'Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press.' This same advocate of an unfettered press later took an apparently contradictory view of American newspapers. He went so far as to label them 'chimneys to carry off noxious vapors and smokes' and, in 1804, even sug- consisting of Copeland, gested that state governments Irons, Carignan and Harle might claim an exclusive 'right to Makemson, assistant professor Control the C control the freedom of the press?' And what role did he believe that the press should serve in a free and republican nation? What role did it each year, but some member play in Jefferson's own political each year, but some each year, but year, but some each year, but some each year, but some each year. experience?"

determine the question for the Virginia," said Irons, who has contest. This year's committee served on the committee for sever members included Clyde Ellis, al years. "Thomas Jefferson has associate profes associate professor of history, Charles Iron, assistant professor of history, Michael Carginan, assistant professor of history, David Copeland, associate professor of

1,500-word essays in response to communications, Scott Buechl University Chaplain, Nan Midgette, associate provost a Albertson.

Albertson said in choosing the question, the committee fil reviews past questions before fo mulating the newest question.

"(We keep it) relevant to discu sion in the academic world Albertson said.

A separate judging committee communications, selected the wir ners after reading each entry.

The committees vary slightly

"I (completed) all of my highe Each fall, a committee meets to education at the University of the state of the sta been a very real presence the last twelve years of my life."

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