

## CAMPUS EXPERIENCES

## Poets share insights, inspirations

By Melissa Hopkins  
Communications Director

"What I do is a mentoring through email. It is a ghostly poet and a ghostly poet meeting in cyberspace. It is a very fruitful exchange with a primary goal of fostering revision as every poet finds his or her way."

This was the explanation given by Distinguished Poet Becky Gould Gibson during the 2011 Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poets Series Central Region reading April 14 in the DeTamble Library.

High school winner Rachel Carroll, college

winner Bryant Ferrell and adult winner Valerie Macon joined Gibson.

Each poet shared recent works before answering questions. St. Andrews Writer-in-Residence Ron Bayes asked how the poets react when "lighting strikes" at inconvenient times.

"I've lost a lot of good poems that way," Ferrell admitted.

Carroll has been creative in catching the lightning. "I've been known to write poems on my arms. I wound up doing that on my flight to China. I wrote it all around my arms. When I got there I was able to



The 2011 Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poets Series Central Region Winners Bryant Ferrell, Rachel Carroll and Valerie Macon share their insights at the April 14 event in DeTamble Library.

write it all down."

"I keep a notebook in my purse," Macon said.

Another question was raised about the discipline involved in writing, as Macon shared that she writes for two hours every Saturday morning.

"I have an office that tends to inspire me in a different way," she said. "I see a poem in every

person. There is a poem in every restaurant and I see a poem in every field. The more I write the more I see."

Carroll agreed. "The poetry is exponential. It is based on what I experience. When I went to China for two weeks I wrote 12 poems. There is always poetry inside of me and the more poet-

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Winning participants in the 2011 Scotland County NAACP Youth Council's ACT-SO Competition pose with Laurinburg Mayor Matthew Block, center, following the event Saturday evening.

## ACT-SO competition held in Avinger Auditorium

On April 23, the Scotland County NAACP Youth Council held the annual ACT-SO competition in Avinger Auditorium.

"ACT-SO is a year-long enrichment program designed to encourage high academic and cultural achievement among underserved minority high

school students," said event chair Rena McNeil. "ACT-SO relies on community volunteers and business leaders to serve as mentors and coaches in promoting academic and artistic excellence among African American and Hispanic students. By providing an arena where students strive to excel in the sciences,

arts and humanities, ACT-SO equips its participants with the skills to live meaningful lives."

The event was created in 1978 by Vernon Jarrett of Chicago, a renowned author, civil rights activist and journalist.