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For Immediate Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- High school seniors Jules Graybill of Bloomington and Rosalie Rippey of Macomb are the recipients of the Clockwatch Review Young Writers Awards, co-sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan University and Clockwatch Review.

Graybill, 9 White Place, who attends University High School in Normal, and Rippey, who attends Macomb High School, were the winners of the contest, which was open to Illinois poets, short story writers and playwrights between the ages of 14-18.

Graybill and Rippey will receive tuition, room, board, and manuscript evaluation at the 15th Annual IWU Writer's Conference August 12-17, and each will receive a special plaque at the conference's opening ceremonies.

Graybill, a finalist in last year's competition, submitted a story in which he "combines experience and invention to create a strong narrative voice and believable situation," said this year's judge James Plath, editor of the award-winning literary magazine, Clockwatch Review.

"Unlike some young writers who cannot escape their own realities, Graybill shows the promise of one who is moving toward a literary-quality fiction," Plath said.

While attending this year's Writer's Conference, Graybill will study fiction writing with Harry Mark Petrakis, author of many books, including the acclaimed "Ghost of the Sun," and collections of short stories, biographies, and memoirs.

Rippey's poems "display a remarkable range of talent," said Plath.

"Whether she's philosophizing or simply observing how images relate to one another, whether she's working with a strict sonnet form or a free-flowing poem in the personal mode, Rippey proceeds with a surety that one rarely finds in a writer so young," he adds.

Ripsey will study poetry with Paulette Roeske, award-winning poet and writer from Evanston, Ill.

Besides Petrakis and Roeske, Graybill and Ripsey will have the opportunity to hone their writing skills by studying with seminar leaders Fred Shafer of Northwestern University, fiction; James Cross Giblin of New York, children and youth; and Valiska Gregory of Indianapolis, children and youth.

Others involved with the conference are Dorothy Markinko of New York, agent; Mary Catherine Dean of Nashville, editor-in-residence; teacher and writer Mary Benedict of Indianapolis, non-fiction; author Samantha Harte, popular fiction; journalist Elaine Graybill, non-fiction; poet James McGowan, poetry; and special guest James Bennett, author of "I Can Hear the Mourning Dove."