Explorations 2011

MECC's Arts E-Zine

The originality, creativity, technical skill, and enormous artistic vitality represented in these pages are something to be proud of. We hope that everyone will enjoy and appreciate the talents displayed. We especially want to thank all the students and alumni who entered the competition, and all of the people on campus in Student Services, the Wampler Library, and the staff of the Public Relations office who make this competition and the publication possible.

WELCOME to Mountain Empire Community College's 2011 arts magazine, Explorations. In these pages you will find the poems, photographs, drawings and paintings of some of our very talented students and alumni. The artistic style and vision that produce each piece may vary greatly, but all the works represent an artist who's creative, inspired, engaged with the world, full of curiosity and energy, and eager to reach an audience.

On behalf of the entire campus community, we would especially like to thank these contributors for their willingness to share their talents with all of us. Also, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the very talented judges, all distinguished in their respective fields, who agreed to judge the entries for us: Mr. Chuck Clisso in Photography, Ms. Connie Jordan Green in Poetry, and Ms. Val Lyle in Drawing and Painting. Finally, we appreciate the support of the college administration and the Office of Public Relations for their financial support and technical expertise.

CHUCK CLISSO-photography
University of Virginia-Wise professor of photography Chuck Clisso is also a widely acclaimed and experienced commercial photographer and graphic designer. He has a studio in Wise and another in Abingdon, VA.

CONNIE JORDAN GREEN-poetry
An Oak Ridge, Tennessee native, Connie Green taught at the University of Tennessee for many years. Her most recent work is a book of poetry from Finishing Line Press titled Slow Children Playing. She is also a novelist, having published two books for young adults- The War At Home and Emmy- which were nominated for prestigious awards, including the American Library Association's list of Best Books for Young Adults.

VAL LYLE-drawing and painting
Val Lyle is an acclaimed artist currently serving as one of the three artists-in-residence at the William King Museum in Abingdon, VA. An adjunct professor of art at Southwest Virginia Community College, Lyle is a graduate of the ETSU MFA program with an emphasis in ceramic sculpture, but her work includes painting and printmaking as well. Her current traveling body of work entitled "Sanctuary" will be on display this fall at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

We hope you will enjoy Explorations 2011.

Faculty Sponsors
Rita Quillen
Alice Harrington

About the Contestants:

Whitney Ruth Anderson of Norton plans to pursue a career in the art field.

David Barton lives in Big Stone Gap.

Evelyn Bloomer is an LPN employed at Wellmont and self-taught artist in acrylics.

Grace Bolling from Pound has been drawing as long as she can remember. She is a Graphic Design major at MECC.

Geneva Church is a radio announcer with aspirations to become a writer and illustrator some day, so she's majoring in Art at MECC.

Wayne Culbertson, a fine arts graduate of MECC and ETSU, is a full-time artist whose work is known throughout the US and Europe.

Kimberly Davis is a first-year MECC student with a new-found love for art.

Anastasia Hartsock of St. Paul is a Computer-Aided Drafting major. Her passion is the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and taking photographs.

Chris Higgins of Big Stone Gap submitted paintings this year inspired by his Alaska trip.

David Kleineick, a transfer student from Appalachia, is a poet and photographer.

Travis Lane from Big Stone Gap is a previous winner in the Explorations competitions.

Jacinda McQueen took a photography course while a student in the MECC Radiology program.

Allison Newberry, a previous contest winner, is a former art student of MECC art professor, Alice Harrington.

Tony Phipps is a Graphic Design major from Clintwood.

Doug Wynn is from Big Stone Gap.

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Color Photography

1st Place

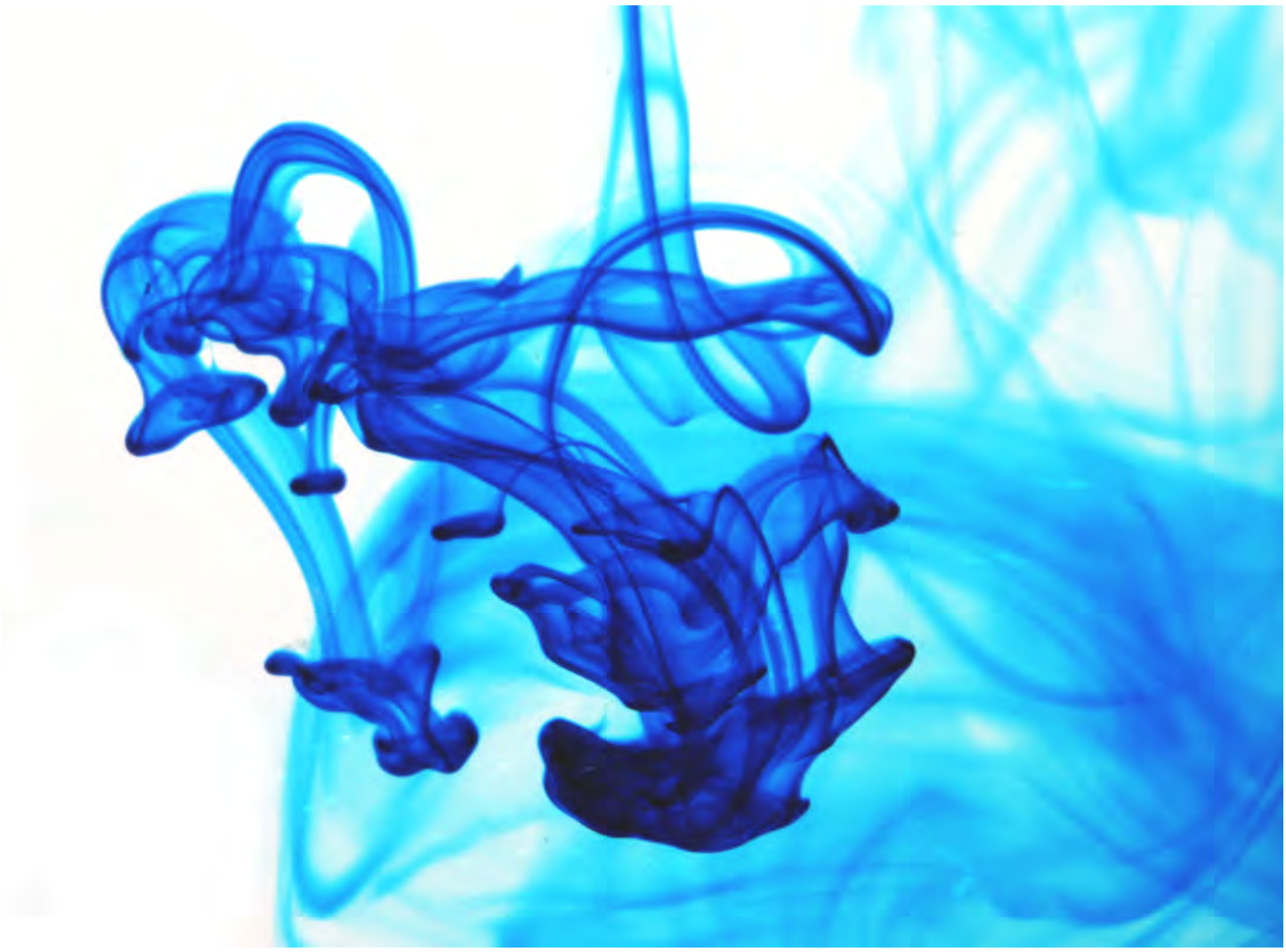
Anastasia Hartsock

Evening Newt

Color Photography

2nd Place

Travis Lane



Blue

Color Photography

3rd Place

Jacinda McQueen

Beauty

Color Photography

Honorable Mention

Jacinda McQueen

Iris

Color Photography

Honorable Mention

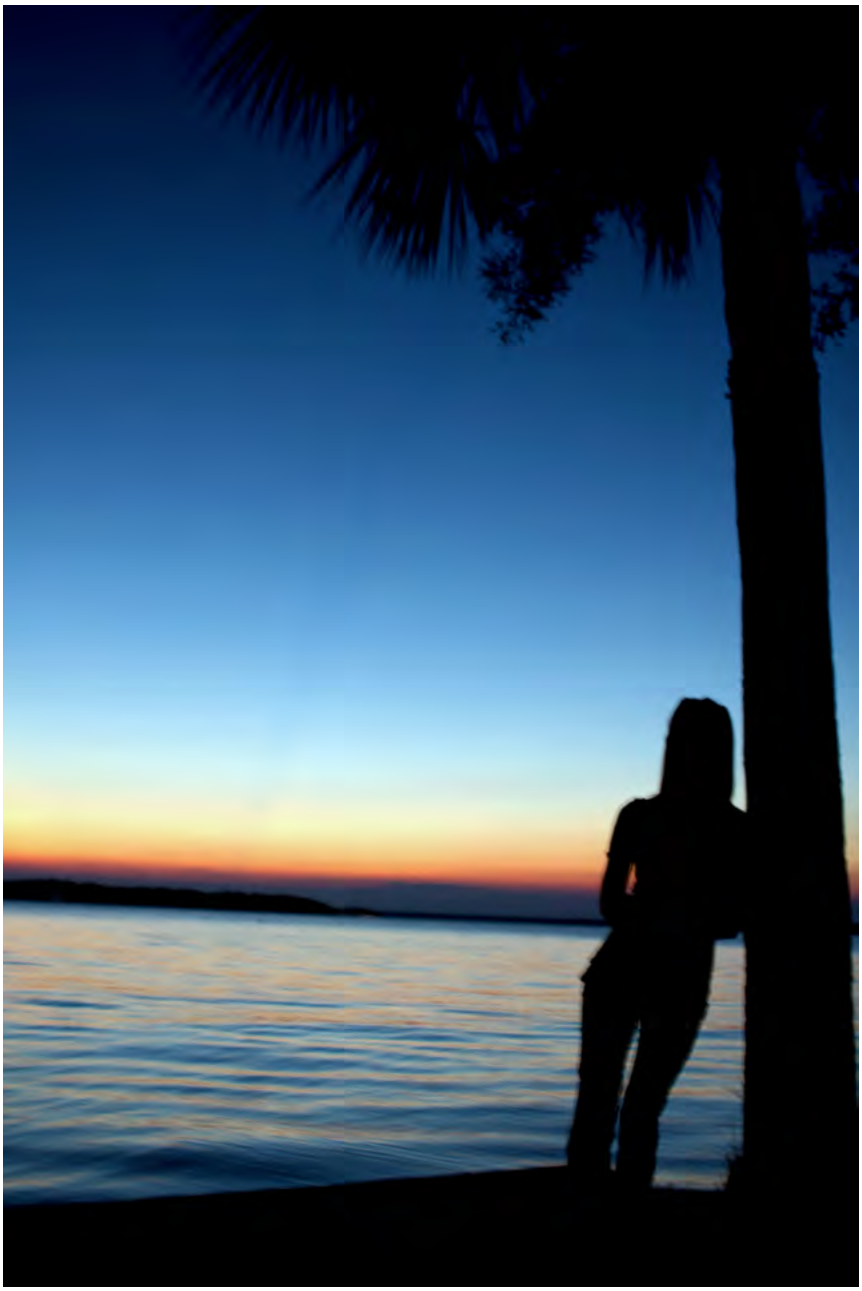
Allison Newberry

Susan's Black Eye

Color Photography

Honorable Mention

Travis Lane



Waiting

Black and White Photography

1st Place

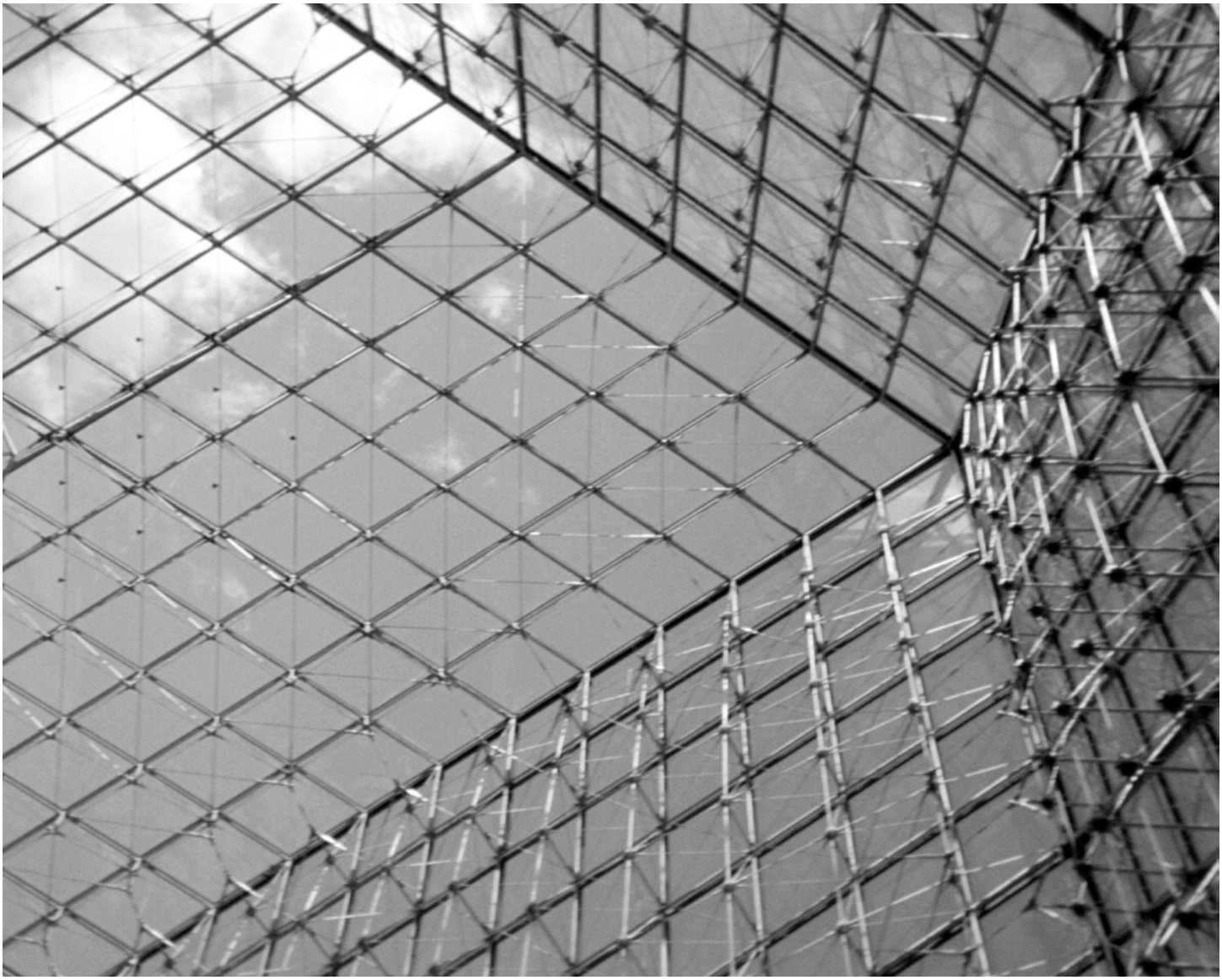
Anastasia Hartsock

Cadillac Style

Black and White Photography

2nd Place

David Kleineick



The Pyramid

Black and White Photography

3rd Place

Allison Newberry

Buster's Nose

Black and White Photography

Honorable Mention

David Kleineick

Old World

Black and White Photography

Honorable Mention

Jacinda McQueen

Kayla

Black and White Photography

Honorable Mention

Anastasia Hartsock

Middle of the Road

Poetry

1st Place

Tony Phipps

Blocked

Sometimes I feel the need to write
But can never find the words
I often think it's out of spite
The gods they tease and churl
They always send a thought or two
But seldom ever enough to do
I start a rhyme, a lyric, a line
Ramblings and nonsense time after time
Always a distraction, this or that
That pries its ways into my head
Nothing that matters, things in a hat
Thoughts that linger on but a thread
Someone someday may find some solace
In these words that make no sense
Be thankful you're not the only one that
Writes of threads that were pulled from a hat

Poetry

2nd Place

Tony Phipps

But a Kiss

A kiss is personal
A kiss is deep
Something you share
Before you go to sleep

A kiss on the lips
A kiss on the cheek
Either way you take it
It's still just as sweet

A kiss is romance
When two lovers meet
A kiss is so tender
It makes their knees weak

A kiss is not solitary
A kiss is not stone
It fills one with passion
Like no one else knows

A kiss is forever
A kiss is for real
So give your true love
Something real to feel

Poetry

3rd Place

David Kleineick

a Sea so Green

When I was a boy, I lived by the sea
and by the sea would I spend my days
Through the eyes of innocence I gazed in wonder at its majesty and splendor
Its magical hold on me, undeniable

The waves crash on the shore by my feet
the water rushes between my toes
Looking down past the reflection of the sun, I see it...
The water, a pale green so beautiful it has no comparison on land
no matter how hard the leaves of the trees may try
It lingers but for a moment before returning to the sea
But in that moment, I choose to stay
In that moment, the color so beautiful, seems made just for me

But times change
People change
Our wonder is replaced with reason
the magic in our hearts by logic
and a young boy learns that even the sea must end

Now I am a man
And the beach, Only where the ocean meets the sand
But I still see the pale green so beautiful and pure
It's the light of my Love's eyes
gazing back at me as the sea never could

Poetry

Honorable Mention

Grace Bolling

Searching

Happy masks hide the pain
Of facing yet another day
Slumped shoulders, hollow eyes
Always wishing, while hope dies

Friendly faces mirrored back
Light on lies fades to black
No one sees beyond the veil
Heart searching, no one to tell

Recycled phrases, nothing new
Tired of talking, just want you
Never there, beyond my sight
Only dreams on lonely nights

Nightmare from my sweetest dreams
Nothing is always what it seems
Love is lethal sickening pain
But no one's there to feel the same

Painting

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Beach Catch

Painting

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