



May 2009

The Foreign Service Youth Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Essay Contest, sponsored by McGrath Real Estate. The annual contest challenges U.S. Foreign Service youth to answer a topic question in 1,000 words or fewer. The 2009 topic question was, "How should the Foreign Service carry out its mission (to promote, implement and support U.S. foreign policy objectives) in the context of the current world financial crisis?" Four winners received generous cash prizes made possible by McGrath Real Estate and were honored at the Youth Awards Ceremony in the Benjamin Franklin Room in the Harry S. Truman Building in Washington, DC on July 17, 2009.

Reuben Luoma-Overstreet

First place was awarded to 17-year-old Reuben Luoma-Overstreet for his essay "Upstaging Protectionism." Reuben is the son of Charles and Kristine Luoma-Overstreet, posted to Washington, DC. He recently completed the 11th grade at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia. Reuben is the Secretary General of the W-L Model United Nations and a runner who specializes in the 300-meter hurdles. In 2005, he received the Harry M. Jannette Foreign Service Youth Community Service Award for his translation work at the Musée Historique d'Abomey in Benin, a UNESCO world heritage site.

Richard Hinman, Jr.

Second place was awarded to 17-year-old Richard Hinman, Jr. for his essay "Diplomacy—The Key to Defeating the Financial Crisis." Richard is the son of Richard Hinman and Josephine Gia Hinman, posted to Amman, Jordan. He recently completed the 11th grade at the American Community School of Amman. Richard has lived in the Czech Republic, India, and now Jordan in addition to six U.S. states. He enjoys science, running track, and playing the saxophone.

Patrick Morgan

Third place was awarded to 15-year-old Patrick Morgan for his essay "A Role for the Foreign Service in the Global Crisis." Patrick is the son of Richard and Katheryn Morgan, currently posted to San Salvador, El Salvador. He recently completed the 10th grade at the Escuela Americana. Born in Washington, DC, Patrick has lived overseas all his life. He speaks three languages and enjoys rock climbing, Boy Scouts, working on Habitat for Humanity projects, and political discourse. He looks forward to continuing to serve his country as one of the next generation of Foreign Service officers.

Rebecca Catherine Hotchner Blaser

Fourth place was awarded to 13-year-old Rebecca Catherine Hotchner Blaser for her essay "Using Our Money Efficiently." Rebecca is the daughter of Mitchell and Virginia Blaser,

currently posted to Port Louis, Mauritius. She recently completed the 9th grade at Le Bocage International School. Becca loves sports, especially basketball, and hopes to become a surgeon.

Everyone associated with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation, McGrath Real Estate, the Family Liaison Office and the Department of State congratulates the 2009 Essay Contest winners. Together with the other entrants, they demonstrate the creativity, thoughtfulness, intelligence and enthusiasm of U.S. Foreign Service youth.

2010 Essay Contest entries are due in April 2010. To receive more information about the contest and other exciting programs organized by the Foreign Service Youth Foundation, please send an email to fsyf@fsyf.org.