Students win scholarships to literary nonfiction conference

DENTON (UNT), Texas --The Dallas Morning News awarded five minority student scholarships for The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest, sponsored by the University of North Texas Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism. The students will attend the inaugural conference July 22-24 (Friday through Sunday) at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, located at 1800 Highway 26 East in Grapevine. Nonfiction writers, editors and publishers will present lectures, discuss their works, answer questions and conduct workshops during the conference, which is open to writers and book lovers interested in exploring narrative storytelling.

The scholarship winners are:

- Daniel Farias Jr. of San Antonio, a senior communication arts/English major at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.
- Timothy Lee Solano Sr. of McKinney, a master's student studying news-editorial journalism at UNT.
- John Richard Lopez of Mesquite, a journalism student at Richland College in the Dallas County Community College District.
- Ashante M. Reese of San Antonio, studying English and history at Trinity University in San Antonio.
- Jennifer Carter of Duncanville, a 2005 graduate of Duncanville High School who plans to study journalism at the University of Texas at Austin.

"It is our hope that by exposing young people to exceptionally talented storytellers lifelong lessons on the benefits of great narrative journalism will be learned," said Bob Mong, editor of The Dallas Morning News.

The scholarships will pay for the $150 student conference fee and two nights of accommodations at the Hilton DFW Lakes. The fee includes dinner receptions on Friday and Saturday and lunches on Saturday and Sunday.

Guest authors at the conference include:

- Los Angeles Times staff writer Sonia Nazario, winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing for "Enrique's Journey," which HBO plans to turn into a six-part miniseries
- Hannibal Johnson, author of "Black Wall Street -- From Riot to Renaissance in Tulsa's Historic Greenwood District," "Up from The Ashes -- A Story About Community" and "Acres of Aspiration -- The All-Black Towns in Oklahoma"
- Susan Orlean, author of "The Orchid Thief" (the basis for the film "Adaptation") and "My Kind of Place: Travel Stories for a Woman Who's Been Everywhere"

For more information or to register for the conference, visit mayborninstitute.unt.edu or call (940) 565-4564.