



PRESS RELEASE

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**TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS
EARN NATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS**

Texarkana, TX – For the third year in a row, Texas High School students have been named top high school photographers in the 2011 Photo Contest, sponsored by Jostens. This nationally acclaimed, annual competition recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of student photographers.

The three selected students are among 114 winners selected from more than 6,000 contest entries submitted by high school, junior high and middle school students, nationwide. Photo contest submissions were judged on composition, artistic merit and technical qualities, as well as the ability to convey a compelling story.

Eight categories were featured in this year's contest: Academics/Community Services, Illustration, Portrait, Graduation, Student Life/Activities, Sports Sidelines: School Spirit, Sports: Athletes in Action and Junior High/Middle School.

John Dukes, THS Senior, was awarded Second Place in the Sports Sidelines: School Spirit category.

Heather Ellis, THS Senior, earned Third Place in Illustration and Honorable Mention in the Graduation category.

Ruth Arnold, THS Junior, brought home Honorable Mention in the Sports: Athletes in Action category.

All winning images are featured on the Jostens.com website and in the Jostens Photo Book for 2011 and in the 2012 issue of the Jostens *Gotcha Covered Look Book*, a popular resource for yearbook advisers and staff seeking creative ideas, trends and inspiration.

The Texas High School Commercial Photography program, under the direction of Clint Smith, was established in 2007 to not only teach students how to create photography, but to also expose them to multiple career paths through the photographic arts. Students enrolled in the program, receive training in photojournalism, portraiture, digital imaging and commercial photography.

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