

Media Release – 20 May 2008

For immediate release

De Beers English Olympiad top 15 winners announced

The Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education has released the names of the Top 15 De Beers English Olympiad winners in **alphabetical** order. They will be announced in their rank order at the official prize-giving ceremony in Grahamstown on the 10th of July. The rank order of the Top 100 winners of the De Beers English Olympiad will be available on the 10th of July on the following website:

<http://schoolfest.foundation.org.za>.

On the 4th of March this year, 5360 entrants from Grade 10 to 12, throughout the country and some neighbouring states, wrote the three-hour examination. The theme this year was ‘*The Law on stage*’ and the anthology, entitled “***Court in the Act***” was made up of extracts from 3 plays and 1 television script, the focus being on drama. The anthology was compiled by the South African Council of English Education.

Andrew Renard, the Chief Examiner made the following comment about the exam, ‘*It is wonderful to know that over 5300 senior pupils are willing to enter a rather difficult examination and dedicate themselves to self-study. The results this year suggest that there is an ongoing improvement in the level of the writers. At the very top level, the results were a little disappointing and relatively few candidates went through to the final round of assessment. These candidates, however, produced work of a very high standard and the top 15 have the potential to excel at tertiary level. This year's Olympiad followed a law theme and if any of these candidates go on to study law, their adversaries in the court room better watch out!*’

The De Beers English Olympiad is a national English competition that draws more than 5000 entries each year. The competition is organized jointly by the Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE). The aim of the Olympiad is to enrich learners through the study of English and to encourage critical thinking and creative writing.

De Beers English Olympiad 2008 Top 15 – Listed in Alphabetical Order

Surname	Name	School
Bensusan	Tansy	St Andrew’s School for Girls
Cordell	Cameron	Grey High School
Da Camara	Danielle	St Cyprian’s School
Deere	Chantelle	Clarendon Girls High School
Haridass	Pratishtha	Epworth High School
Hirschman	Chloè	Brescia House
Kaliski	Daniel	Herzlia High School

Pearce	Simone	Potchefstroom High School for Girls
Pillay	Siddharthiya	Westville Girls High School
Ramgathi	Ashmita	New West Secondary School
Reedy	Alexia	Crawford College, Pretoria
Robbins	Kelly	Alexander Road High School
Tudhope	Andrew	St Peter's College
Vermeulen	Emily	Bergvliet High School
White	Bronwyn	Brescia House

Prizes for candidates who excel in this examination are as follows:

- The Top 3 winners are treated to a literary tour of England in December 2008.
- The Top 15 candidates are invited to attend the Standard Bank National Schools Festival in Grahamstown. Their participation is sponsored by De Beers. The Olympiad prize-giving ceremony takes place during this Festival.
- The Top 50 candidates are offered free-tuition scholarships for their first year of study at Rhodes University, subject to their meeting the relevant entry requirements, and on application to Rhodes.
- All candidates who completed the paper will receive certificates indicating classified evaluation (participation, merit, silver and gold).

De Beers has been closely associated with the English Olympiad since 1985. The De Beers Fund, the company's dedicated social investment vehicle, has for many years contributed the lion's share of its annual budget to supporting education initiatives as the foundation for broader social and economic development.

Media Contacts:

Niki Searle
 English Olympiad Officer
 046 603 1107 / 45
 046 622 7462 (fax)
olympiad@foundation.org.za

Louisa Clayton
 Director: Arts Education
 046 603 1107/ 25
 046 622 7462 (fax)