FKCC Celebrates National Poetry Month with “Pot Luck Poetry”

FKCC poetry student Raymond Ayala is applauded by a crowd of students, faculty, and staff, including her professor E.J. Miller-Laino (far right), after reading his poem “Prisoner of Words.”

KEY WEST, FL, April 27, 2010— At the heart of National Poetry Month, Florida Keys Community College held its third annual “Pot Luck Poetry Reading,” presented by FKCC English Professor and resident poet E.J. Miller-Laino, along with her poetry class in the college’s library last Wednesday.

Thirteen students recited original poems created during the semester to an audience of 85-plus at the increasingly popular celebration of poetry. Poems—with themes ranging from the emotional to the comedic—including a Spanglish fishing curse, an ode to motherhood, a sensual sestina, and a story of silent struggle in the Navy.

FKCC faculty and administrators also joined the fun and shared some of their favorite poems as well as some originals penned themselves. President Dr. Larry Tyree recited his own original poem “I Wonder, So I Wander,” FKCC Trustee Dr. Antoinette Martin shared her daughters’ Shel Silverstein favorites, and Provost Dr. Randy Charles donned a striped top hat for a reading from Dr. Seuss.
“This is what we are really all about at FKCC,” said Miller-Laino. “The faculty, students, administrators and community members worked together to create something of value, a lasting memory.”

Not only was the occasion educational and cultural, it was also philanthropic. Miller-Laino’s class sold raffle tickets for a Kindle, as well as gift certificates from Camille’s restaurant and the Tropic Cinema. The proceeds were donated to The Keys Center Academy, which is also housed on FKCC’s Key West campus.

“This college-wide event exemplifies how FKCC truly is a learning-centered institution which embraces diversity of thought,” comments FKCC President Dr. Larry Tyree. “I take great pride in the talents and abilities demonstrated by our students and staff. I was certainly impressed.”

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