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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2010 National Horace Mann Upstanders Children's Literature Award Announced

Paul Fleischman's The Dunderheads by Candlewick Press receives top honor

CULVER CITY, CA – April 20, 2010 – Antioch University Los Angeles today announced the 2010 National Horace Mann Upstanders Children's Literature Award winners. The Horace Mann Upstanders awards reinforce the importance of encouraging young readers to recognize injustice and take a stand against it.

Since 2007 Antioch University's Education Department in partnership with the South Bay Literacy Foundation and the Better World JL Institute jointly work to honor and promote upstander-themed books that inspire young readers to action.

The winner to receive this year's 2010 award is: *The Dunderheads* by Paul Fleischman, Illustrated by David Roberts and published by Candlewick Press.

The story: Miss Breakbone hates kids. Especially the time-squandering, mindwandering, doodling, dozing dunderheads in her class. But when she confiscates Junkyard's crucial find, she finally goes too far. Enter Wheels, Pencil, Spider, and their fellow misfits in a spectacular display of teamwork aimed at teaching Miss Breakbone a lesson she won't soon forget. From the incomparable Newbery Award winner Paul Fleischman comes a winning cast of underdogs -- and one of the most terrifying teachers you'll ever meet -- brought to vivid life in David Roberts's quirky, hilarious illustrations. Dunderheads, unite!

"I'm honored by the selection of *The Dunderheads* for the Horace Mann award" said author Paul Fleischman. "The award gave me inspiration to do some reading up on Mr. Mann. Calls for educational reform are clearly nothing new. I've often tried to show the ancient roots in our culture's present, and modeled *The Dunderheads* on the ancient motif of a band of differently-abled questers. Interesting that Mr. Mann opposed corporal punishment. He'd have fired Miss Breakbone in an instant.."

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The 2010 Honor Books include

Sparrow Girl-by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Yoko Tanaka
Big Bear Hug-written and illustrated by Nicholas Oldland (Kids Can Press)
Finding Lincoln-by Ann Malaspina, illus by Colin Bootman (Albert Whitman Co.)
Duck and Cover-written and illustrated by Jackie Urbanovic
How Robin Saved Spring-by Debbie Ouellet, illustrated by Nicoletta Ceccoli
The Curious Garden-written and illustrated by Peter Brown
First Come the Zebra-written and illustrated by Lynne Barasch
Weezer Changes the World-written and illustrated by David McPhail
The Hair of Zoe-by Laurie Halse Anderson, illustrated by Ard Hoyt
Nasreen's Secret School-written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter

Over 150 books were nominated for the 2010 National Horace Mann Upstanders Children's Literature Award. Graduate students in the education department of AULA were the first readers of the nominees and the final panel of judges included literary and social justice professionals.

This is the third year that the Education Department of Antioch University Los Angeles has given this award. In 2008 the winner was *Mrs. Marlowe's Mice* by Frank and Devon Asch (Kids Can Press). The 2009 winner was *Violet the Pilot* by Steve Breen (Dial-Penguin)

The award will be presented to Paul Fleischman on June 28th at the annual conference which will be held at the Actors Gang Theatre in Culver City. Paula Yoo, author of *Good Enough*, *Shining Star*; *The Anna May Wong Story* and *Sixteen Years in 16 seconds*; the *Sammy Lee Story* will be speaking. Ben Saenz, award winning author of a *Calendar of Dust*, which won an American Book Award, [A Gift from Papá Diego, Grandma Fina and Her Wonderful Umbrellas](#) and [A Perfect Season for Dreaming](#) for children and his young adult novels [Sammy & Juliana in Hollywood](#) , *He Forgot to Say Goodbye* and *Last Night I Sang to the Monster* will also be speaking and signing books

The conference is free and open to the public and additional information can be found at www.upstandersaward.org

More information on Antioch University Los Angeles and the Education program can be found at www.AntiochLA.edu

For more information, please contact Joanna Gerber, Director of Public Relations for Antioch University Los Angeles at Jgerber@antioch.edu or at (310) 578-1080 x119.

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Antioch University is founded on principles of rigorous liberal arts education and innovative experiential learning. Since its creation in 1852, Antioch University has evolved from a small liberal arts college to a multi-campus university system with five campuses located across the nation in Yellow Springs, Ohio; Keene, New Hampshire; Seattle, Washington; Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, California. Today's Antioch University is the legacy of Horace Mann's original vision, nurturing in their students the knowledge, skills, and habits of reflection to excel as lifelong learners, democratic leaders, and global citizens.

For over 35 years, Antioch University Los Angeles (AULA) has proudly and consistently challenged educational conventions to inspire learning and leadership that promotes service to community and positive social change. In addition to a liberal arts undergraduate degree completion program, AULA offers graduate degree programs in clinical psychology, creative writing, teacher credentialing, education and organizational management. Antioch University Los Angeles was recently named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. More information can be found online at www.AntiochLA.edu