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Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Art Students Receive Trophy for ‘Hottest Metal’ at the 2011 National Conference on Cast Iron Art

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – A team of art students from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi won the first place trophy for producing “the hottest metal” at the 2011 National Conference on Cast Iron Art held April 13-16 at the Sloss Historic Furnaces in Birmingham, Ala.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi graduate and undergraduate students competed against 12 universities and art schools from across the nation and the United Kingdom where students designed and fabricated iron-melting furnaces.

The University’s furnace design was developed in June 2010 during a summer course taught by Professor Jack Gron, chair of the Department of Art.

At the April competition the University team furnace demonstrated the highest temperature of the melt, measured by casting the molten iron into a mold containing a squared spiral pattern. The further the iron travels, the larger the final casting.

This award recognition builds on the national reputation of the Master of Fine Arts graduate program. Funding for students to attend the conference was provided by the Provost’s Parent’s Council and CMC Recycling of Corpus Christi.

Participating students were Abigail Lashbrook, Bachelor of Science; Maggie Denton, Bachelor of Science; Jose Palacios, Master of Science; Andrew Smith, Master of Fine Arts; Casey Cooper, Master of Fine Arts; Cody Jones, Master of Fine Arts; Sebastian Stoddert, Master of Fine Arts; Sebastiana Stoddert, Master of Fine Arts; Greg Teagarden, Master of Fine Arts; and Kevin Ramler, Master of Fine Arts.

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