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Features

CONGRATULATIONS

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Recognized for their solo performances at the Youth America Grand Prix were, from left, Natalie Krakirian, Vanessa Alschuler, Liv Hutchings and Maria Fernanda Paredes. (Courtesy of Noel S. Aragon)

SCHOOL OF BALLET BRINGS HOME HONORS

A group of students from Burbank School of the Ballet received awards during the Youth America Grand Prix in January in Los Angeles.

Youth America Grand Prix is a student ballet scholarship competition that awards more than $250,000 annually in scholarships to leading dance schools worldwide. The competition is held annually around the world and in New York City, and is open to dance students of all nationalities 9 to 19 years old.

Awards the school received are Outstanding Teacher Award — **Lisa Sutton**, owner and head teacher of Burbank School of the Ballet; Senior Age Division, Classical Ballet, second place — **Natalie Krakirian** (age 15); Contemporary Ballet, first place Natalie Krakirian; Junior Age Division, Contemporary Ballet, Top 12, **Vanessa Alschuler** (age 14).

More are Pre- Competitive Age Division, Hope Award (Best Overall in Pre-Competitive Age Division), **Maria Fernanda Paredes** (age 10); Top 12, **Liv Hutchings** (age 11).

The following ensemble pieces qualified to compete at the finals in New York in April: "Viva La Vida," choreographed by **Amy Hutchings** and performed by Vanessa Alschuler, Natalie Krakirian and **Lauren Van Vleet**; "Beautiful Flower" choreographed by Amy Hutchings, performed by Vanessa Alschuler, **Mia Davern**, Liv Hutchings, **Nikki Jew**, Natalie Krakirian, **Maran McLeod**, Maria Paredes, **Skylar Roberge** and Lauren Van Vleet.

More ensemble works that received recognition are "Shadowland" choreographed by **Ina Haybaeck-Rogers** and performed by Vanessa Alschuler, **Madeline Aragon**, Mia Davern, Hannah Dragomer, Liv Hutchings, Nikki Jew, Natalie Krakirian, Maran McLeod, Skylar Roberge, **Rachel Robles** and Lauren Van Vleet.

Natalie Krakirian received a scholarship to Ballet West.

BURROUGHS SENIOR RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Jeffery Dumas Jr., a senior at John Burroughs High School, has been awarded an academic honor scholarship for the 2009-10 school year from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

Dumas is the recipient of an Academic Achievement Scholarship, which awards a minimum of $1,000 per year. He is the son of **Debra Perry** of Burbank.

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