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Plainsman Press captures 15 awards at state conference

LEVELLAND – Current and former members of the Plainsman Press staff won 15 awards during the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Conference (TIPA) held April 9-11 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Dallas.

The Plainsman Press is the student newspaper at South Plains College.

The event featured 612 participants representing 52 colleges and universities. TIPA is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Students competed in various categories such as print journalism, photojournalism, broadcast journalism, public relations majors as well as live, on-site competitions.

In Division 4, based on enrollment and frequency of publication, SPC students received 15 awards, the most ever in the school's history in this competition.

Melissa Rinehart, sophomore photojournalism major from Lubbock (Monterey High School) and Britni Palomino, a sophomore photojournalism major from Plainview, placed second out of 35 entries in the live two-man digital photography contest. Rinehart and Palomino serve as co-editor-in-chief of the Plainsman Press.

Caroline Basile, currently a junior at the University of Texas-Arlington, placed first for In-Depth Reporting. She wrote a five-part piece on the activities of the U.S. Border Patrol. Basile, Palomino and Charles Ehrenfeld, instructor/advisor, participated in a two-day ride-along in the Border Patrol's Marfa Sector after an invitation from former SPC faculty member and 2008 Distinguished Alumni Dan Harris.

Basile placed second in Headline Writing, Honorable Mention for Sports Feature Story on SPC track athlete Lillian Badaru, Honorable Mention for Information Graphic and Honorable Mention for News Story.

Homer Marquez, currently a junior advertising major at Texas Tech University, placed first in Ad Design for an ad he designed for Charley's Restaurant in Levelland.

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Palomino placed third in Sports Action Photo, third in Single Subject Presentation for a feature photo page on the U.S. Border Patrol, and Honorable Mention Award for Picture Story.

Rinehart received an Honorable Mention Award for Sports Feature Photo.

Brant Thurmond, sophomore broadcast journalism major from Lamesa, placed third in Sports Page Design. Cody Barron, sophomore print journalism major from Lubbock (Lubbock Cooper High School), received an Honorable Mention Award for Sports News Story.

Tausha Rosen, freshman public relations major from Wolfforth (Frenship High School), placed second in Critical Review for her movie review of "The Secret Life of Bees." Rosen also competed in the Editorial Cartoon category.

Also attending the conference were and competing in live contests were Jason Cannon, sophomore broadcast journalism major from Lubbock, who participated in the TV News Writing and TV Commercial categories; Daniel Clayton, sophomore English major from Amarillo who participated in the Public Relations News Release Writing category; Jake Diggs, sophomore broadcast journalism major from White Deer who participated in the TV Sports Writing category; Wes Dunkerson, sophomore radio, television and film major from Channing who participated in the Radio Announcing category; Alex Everett, sophomore photojournalism major from Dallas who participated in the Sports Action Photography category; Bridgette Farkas, sophomore broadcast journalism major from Burleson who participated in the Radio Commercial category; Vanessa Garcia, sophomore photojournalism major from Lamesa who participated in the Feature Photography category; Lisa Hernandez, sophomore journalism major from Slaton who participated in the Editorial Writing and TV Announcing categories; Jennifer Moore, public relations major from Floydada who participated in Copy Editing category; and Beka Rutledge, sophomore journalism major from Whitharral who participated in the Critical Review category.

The conference also was attended by Ali Esquibel, freshman advertising major from Amherst; Ashley Neal, freshman photojournalism major from Smyer; Kasey Putman, sophomore public relations major from Ropesville; Sarah Ross, freshman photojournalism major from Klamath Falls, Ore.; Kristen Vela, sophomore photojournalism major from Meadow; and Sagan Wilks, sophomore photojournalism major from Meadow.

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