

Cosgrove wins reporting award, trip to Asia

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Oklahoma State University senior Jaclyn Cosgrove is a winner in the Roy W. Howard National Collegiate Reporting Competition from The Scripps Howard Foundation. In addition to the award and honor, Cosgrove will join a 13-day study trip to Japan and South Korea.

By Katie Butler

(STILLWATER, Okla., March 26, 2009) -- Oklahoma State University senior Jaclyn Cosgrove is a winner in the Roy W. Howard National Collegiate Reporting Competition from The Scripps Howard Foundation. In addition to the award and honor, Cosgrove will join a 13-day study trip to Japan and South Korea.

Cosgrove, a news-editorial and broadcast production major from Arpelar, Okla., said she "truly couldn't believe it" when she heard the news.

Cosgrove said the first person she called was her mom. Next on her call list was the professor who encouraged her to apply for the award, Ray Murray.

"Had Professor Murray not said, 'Hey, I think you could get this,' I wouldn't have applied for the award," Cosgrove said. "He and the other journalism professors are part of the reason I received this award because they care so much about the students and truly want to see them succeed."

Cosgrove also credits the school newspaper with developing her as journalist. She has worked for The Daily O'Collegian since August 2005 and has served as editor-in-chief. Currently, she is a senior staff writer and staff photographer.

"Working for The Daily O'Collegian has helped shape me into the aspiring journalist I am today," Cosgrove said. "Because of my work at the O'Colly, I have been able to gain invaluable journalism experience. Not to mention, find my passion for journalism."

Ray Murray, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, said Cosgrove "jumped out" as a good candidate for the award.

"She is one of our top students and has been since she got here," Murray said.

Harry Hix, adviser of the O'Colly and assistant journalism professor, also encouraged Cosgrove to apply for the award. "She is a promising young journalist with real talent as a reporter. Also, she has a passion for journalism that I don't see in student journalists as much as I would like to see."

Cosgrove, along with eight other winners, will study from June 13 through June 27 on an expense-paid trip led by Bradley J. Hamm, dean of the journalism school at Indiana University and a Roy W. Howard scholar, who has extensive travel experience throughout Asia.

"We are honoring the legacy of Roy Howard with this reporting award because he lived a global life as a reporter and editor long before most schools taught about international reporting," Dr. Hamm said. "These young journalists will have the opportunity of a lifetime to learn about the media and culture of Japan and South Korea."

Cosgrove and the other winners were chosen for the quality of their published and broadcast work and an essay about their interest in international affairs.