

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **National Press Club-North West University Journalist of the Year awarded**

The National Press Club-North West University Journalist of the Year 2009 is Joy Summers of Carte Blanche. She was also awarded as the Television – In depth features journalist of the year.

The awards were made at the annual National Press Club Glenrand MIB Newsmaker of the Year function.

National Press Club Chairperson Yusuf Abramjee said the National Press Club's executive committee decided to re-introduce the awards and to secure a sponsorship so that they can encourage excellent journalism and communication and reward excellence.

The winners in the other categories were in Graeme Hosken from Pretoria News in the Print News category; Theane Calitz from Beeld in the Photography category; Cathy Mohlalana from Talk Radio 702, Eyewitness News in the Radio News category; Liela Magnus from SABC in the Radio In depth features category; Megan Raubenheimer from e.tv in the Television Camera Person category.

Adrian Lackey from SARS was awarded the Media Liaison Officer of the year. Members of the National Press Club nominated their favourite Media Liaison Officers. The executive committee choose the winner in this category. Abramjee said Adrian won because he is always available for media comment and very helpful towards the media. "We looked for someone with outstanding communication skills, accessibility, helpfulness and the like."

The entries were judged by a panel of various independents experts and academics. Pippa Green is Associate Professor and Head of the Journalism Department at the University of Pretoria. She is a member of the Nieman Selection Committee as well as the SABC board. She has been a journalist and a writer for the past 25 years.

Gilbert Mokwatedi has 15 years of experience in radio journalism, journalism training – specialising in radio news and current affairs – media relations and corporate communications. He has worked for media organisations such as the South African Press Association and the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

Peter Morey has been running his own photographic studio for the last 16 years after working as a photographer at the Pretoria News for many years. He was the official photographer at the inauguration of both former presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki.

Liesl Pretorius is the outgoing editor of The Media. She took over the editorship, following a stint as launch editor of the magazine's sister website, TheMediaOnline. She has spent the bulk of her journalism career at daily newspapers. At Beeld, she was in-depth reporter covering media. She was a regional winner in the Editor's Choice category of the Vodacom Journalist of the Year Awards.

Marion Scher is an award winning freelance journalist, writing for many of South Africa's major consumer publications, the custom publishing field as well as public relations companies and the corporate world. She is also a trainer for the Print Media Association of South Africa and trains at 702 Talk Radio.

Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor of North-West University says the university has a long-standing scholarly relationship with journalism. "To express the NWU's ongoing commitment to the indispensable role of an independent media in South Africa, I would like to announce our further sponsorship for a future prize for "Editor of the Year". May this encourage the media as a whole to maintain the high standards of ethical journalism, the quest for truth in the public interest and appropriate accountability. The NWU supports you fully in this noble endeavour."

Abramjee says the club decided to bring the journalism awards back because they were very popular in the past. "We also received scores of requests from members. We will continue to award and reward excellence in journalism. We must continue to raise the bar," said Abramjee.

The National Press Club – North-West University overall Journalist of the Year will win a cash prize of R10 000 and the winners in the different categories won a cash prize of R5000 each sponsored by the North-West University.

The North-West University announced that they will sponsor the competition again for next year.

Abramjee thanked the North West University for extending their sponsorship to 2010 and for extending their sponsorship to include a category for Editor of the Year next year.

"We are delighted that the university has come on board as a partner. It is a yet another indication of their commitment to recognising excellence."

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