

SUN PRESS



THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008

FOR COMMUNITY NEWS ALL DAY, EVERY DAY



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JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY/SPECIAL TO SUN NEWS

John Carroll Student Jenna LoCastro won the national Society of Professional Journalists "Mark of Excellence" award for her newspaper column "LoCastro's Lowdown."

John Carroll journalist named top U.S. collegiate columnist

By Brian Trapp

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John Carroll University communications student Jenna LoCastro has been judged best in the nation among college newspaper columnists.

Her column, "LoCastro's Lowdown," won the national Society of Professional Journalists "Mark of Excellence" award.

The Pittsburgh native publishes the column regularly in university's newspaper, *The Carroll News*.

She writes about "whatever interests me," she said, which can range from serious cur-

rent event topics such as polygamy, to a more satirical subjects, such as lampooning college life.

One recent column made fun of what LoCastro called "Drunk Debbies," which are girls who get drunk at bars and act irresponsibly.

Unlike some of her fellow students who change majors like pairs of jeans, LoCastro has always wanted to be a journalist.

"It's just something I've always been into doing," she said.

She started writing the column a year and a half ago. When LoCastro heard she had won the honor, she was "be-fuddled," she said.

"I didn't really think I was going to win. It makes me want to be a journalist even more," she said.

To pursue her dream, LoCastro was a spring semester journalism intern for Cleveland's *Inside Business* magazine and also writes for the Cleveland SPJ newsletter *Writer's Week*.

LoCastro said she would like to be a newspaper journalist if she doesn't join the Peace Corps.

LoCastro will be honored in September at the 2008 SPJ Convention & National Journalism Conference in Atlanta.

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