

Phoenix editor wins reporting award

BY MARA HVISTENDAHL

Phoenix in-depth editor Sonia Scherr '01 received second place in the Associated Collegiate Press Reporter of the Year contest at the ACP's annual meeting for college media, held last weekend in Washington, D.C.

Scherr was among three finalists for the award, one of the most prestigious honors a college reporter can receive.

She won the \$500 prize for three in-depth pieces she wrote for The Phoenix last spring. Two focused on concerns of college staff and a third featured women involved in science at Swarthmore.

Scherr said she enjoyed writing all three pieces. "I was happy with the staff [series] because I think it might have increased awareness of staff issues," she said. "As for women in science, I am interested in science, but I haven't been able to pursue that here as much as I would have liked to. The experience of writing the article allowed me to still be

involved with science at Swarthmore."

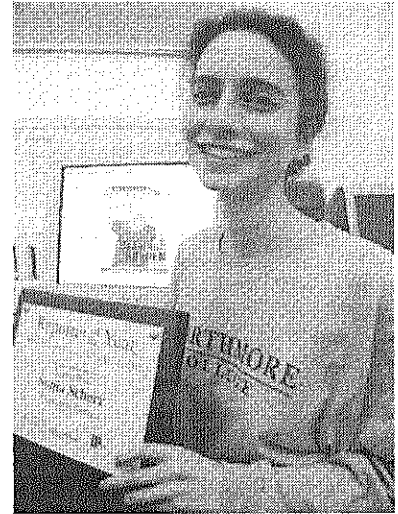
Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman, co-editor of The Phoenix, said Scherr's reporting and editing skill are responsible for the newspaper's improvements in investigative journalism. "I'm not sure what we'd do without [Scherr]," he said. "The quality of the in-depth section you see in The Phoenix is due exclusively to her work."

According to Ashby-Kuhlman, Scherr puts in extensive hours. "Every week, she spends the better part of entire days reporting, writing and editing stories for us," he said. "The ACP judges decided well. There's no one I know who deserves this award more."

Scherr's interest in journalism dates back to high school. She became editor of the in-depth section in January.

And, as she prepares to graduate, it looks like journalism may be in her future, too.

Scherr hopes to find a newspaper internship for this summer and then see where it leads.



Nathan Ashby-Kuhlman Phoenix Staff

Phoenix in-depth editor Sonia Scherr displays her award from the Associated College Press.