



RELEASE

PENN STATE PUBLIC BROADCASTING WINS FOUR COMMUNICATOR AWARDS

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (Feb. 27, 2007) – Penn State Public Broadcasting (WPSU-TV and WPSU-FM) has received four awards in the 13th Annual Communicator Awards competition, an international contest that honors excellence in communications.

WPSU received the following awards: "Music from Penn State: Music Theatre Spotlight" was the recipient of an "Award of Excellence" in the Arts Video Category, "Independent Oil: Rediscovering America's Forgotten Wells" received an "Award of Excellence" in the Documentary Video Category, "Allegheny Sounds" received an "Award of Distinction" in the Music Audio category, and "BookMark," received an "Award of Distinction" in the Other Audio category.

"Music from Penn State: Music Theatre Spotlight" showcases the senior class of the Penn State musical theatre department. "It's been such a pleasure to bring the musical talent that exists at Penn State to our viewers," said Executive Producer Jeff Hughes. The positive response to the program has enabled WPSU to develop an ongoing series of music programming from Penn State.

The programs can be seen online at www.wpsu.org/ondemand. Production will begin this spring on a second installment of the series.

"Independent Oil: Rediscovering America's Forgotten Wells" was produced by Jeff Hughes with funding from the Department of Energy and the Stripper Well Consortium, the program focuses on the more than 500,000 small gas and oil wells across the United States, known as stripper wells, and how they might help reduce our dependence on foreign supplies.

The WPSU-FM series "Allegheny Sounds," features conversations and music that highlights classical musicians from central and northern Pennsylvania. The 2006 series features ensembles such as the Castalia Trio, whose program won the award.

"It's a nice honor that the program was worthy of the award," said Steve Shipman, producer and recording engineer. "Hopefully this recognizes what the station does for the community as a whole; [it] brings about our mission to serve the community."

"Allegheny Sounds" is available to listeners online at <http://wpsu.org/alleghenysounds/default.html>. The upcoming "Allegheny Sounds" series will feature folk artists.

"BookMark" is a weekly book review program where avid readers from throughout the WPSU-FM listening area present their own book reviews on the air. Most "BookMark" reviews feature recently released books; many books have a Pennsylvania connection. The show features a multitude of voices ranging from children to senior citizens. "BookMark" can be heard Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. with an encore broadcast on Sundays at 9:34 a.m. on WPSU-FM and online anytime at wpsu.org.

"It's gratifying to be recognized by other broadcasters," said "BookMark" producer, editor and creator Cynthia Berger. "What makes the show is our listeners who become reviewers." Berger previously won an "Award of Distinction" for a radio news feature story for the 12th Annual Communicator Awards.

The 13th Annual Communicator Awards is an international awards competition that recognizes outstanding work in the communication field. Entries are judged by industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talent exceeds a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for the industry. Entries and winners have come from all 50 states and numerous foreign countries.

WPSU serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. The public media services produce, acquire and distribute programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of an audience within central Pennsylvania.

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