



2010 First Amendment Event Largest Ever

CONCORD _ The 2010 First Amendment Awards Event was the largest ever for the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications. A crowd of about 800 celebrated the First Amendment with guest speaker Bill O'Reilly and recognized this year's First Amendment recipient, Gail Pierson Cromwell of Temple.

Cromwell is a ConVal School Board member who was censured for speaking out against a proposed school bond that the board had endorsed. She maintained she was only doing her job by informing her constituents about the proposed borrowing.

O'Reilly, host of the O'Reilly Factor on Fox News, spoke of recent incidents in which hosts of "The View," program walked off stage in protest of his comments on their program and in which National Public Radio fired news analyst Juan Williams because of comments Williams made on O'Reilly's program.

Follow these links to press coverage of the event:

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=First+Amendment%2c+Cromwell+honored+at+Loeb+event&articleid=179b8bd1-38e9-4e93-9daa-b594fb5bab72>

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/article/221614/oreilly-takes-on-islam-controversies>

The school also recognized its newest Nackey Loeb Fellow, Lisa Tutinas of North Hampton, who completed five classes or workshops and wrote an essay on the First Amendment. Tutinas has combined her talent with new skills learned at the Loeb School to get her photos and writing published in several newspapers, magazines and websites. In her essay, she laments a lack of standards and reliability on some online news sources that have proliferated under our First Amendment. "Truth cannot be compromised for the First Amendment to live on as a lasting symbol of America's cherished freedoms," she wrote.

As with First Amendment Award recipients, Cromwell was chosen from nominations submitted by the public.

First Amendment Award judges were: Rod Doherty, Executive Editor of Foster's Daily Democrat; Retired N.H. Supreme Court Justice Richard Galway; Tami Plyler, Executive Editor of the New Hampshire Union Leader; Atty. Gregory Sullivan, Malloy & Sullivan; and previous First Amendment recipients: John Howe, former Executive Editor of The Laconia Citizen; and Londonderry High School Journalism Advisor Mary Lukas.

Other previous recipients, all selected for dedication to the First Amendment or actions that exemplify the freedoms it guarantees, are: former New Hampshire Attorney General Philip McLaughlin, former Keene Sentinel Executive Editor Thomas F. Kearney, political activist and former legislator Daniel Hughes, Dover City Councilor David Scott and First Amendment Attorney William Chapman

Funds raised at the event enable the school to offer free classes on topics including the First Amendment; news, sports, editorial, political and feature writing; social media, photography and broadcasting. More than 4,000 people have participated in classes, workshops and school-sponsored events.

Led by presenting sponsor Wheelabrator Technologies, the First Amendment Awards are backed by many business, civic and media leaders. Other major supporters include: PSNH, People's United Bank, Amoskeag Beverages, Bank of America, TD Charitable Foundation, The Common Man Family of Restaurants, Citizens Bank, Mosse and Mosse Associates, National Grid, Thermo Fisher Scientific, BAE Systems, The Dupont Group, Lincoln Financial Group, Sean Mahoney, NextEra Energy Seabrook Station, SilverTech, Fidelity Investments and Daniel Hughes.