

June 3, 2013

For Immediate Release

SPIG Names Teacher of the Year Award for Former President of Group and Long-Time Member

The Small Programs Interest Group announced today that it will be renaming its Teacher of the Year Award to honor a long-time member.

The Ginger Rudeseal Carter Miller Teacher of the Year will be presented for the first time this year on Saturday, Aug. 10 by Miller herself.

"I received the SPIG Teacher of the Year Award in 2005, and I consider it the highest honor I received as a professor – until now," Miller said. "I was surprised, pleased, honored, and speechless when Kay Colley called me with the news."

Miller retired from Georgia College and State University this year. Current SPIG Chair, Kay L. Colley, said that members of SPIG thought naming the organization's top award after Miller was fitting.

"Ginger has been such a great proponent for SPIG, especially keeping its focus on the importance of teaching to small programs throughout the United States," Colley said. "She is one of those kinds of colleagues and teachers that brings education into everything she does. We are so excited she will be at our annual conference to present this award for the first time."

Mary "Mitzi" Lewis, assistant professor at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, will receive the first Ginger Rudeseal Carter Miller Teacher of the Year Award.

"I know the award name is a long one," Miller said, "but I worked professionally as Rudeseal – my family name – Carter – my only son's name – and Miller – my husband, Dr. Randy Miller's, name. It was especially important to me to have my maiden name in there, because my father and mother, Leman and Mollie Rudeseal, made my academic career possible."

SPIG will present Lewis with the award on Saturday, August 10, at noon during the group's annual luncheon held in conjunction with the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication convention in Washington, D.C.

#####