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El Camino College Journalism Program Wins National Awards

El Camino College's journalism program won several national awards at the recent Associated Collegiate Press (ACP)/College Media Association (CMA) convention in Austin, Texas.

The Union, El Camino College's student newspaper, was selected as Newspaper of the Year in the less-than-weekly category in Associated Collegiate Press competition with other two-year colleges. The newspaper was honored for editions overseen by former editors-in-chief Matthew Simon and Jessica Martinez.

Martinez also received ACP's second-place award for Reporter of the Year and first-place honors from CMA for Best Online Infographic. Now a student journalist at New York University, Martinez was an El Camino College Presidential Scholar.

Eugene Chang was given CMA's third-place award for editorial cartooning, and the campus magazine, Warrior Life, received ninth place in ACP Best of Show judging.

ACP recognized the Union earlier this year when it was named a finalist for one of college journalism's premier honors, the Pacemaker Award.

The Austin convention, which drew about 2,000 journalists and advisers, offered hundreds of sessions, keynote addresses, hands-on workshops, special events, critiques and a trade show.

In addition, The Union won a total of eight awards from the Journalism Association of Community Colleges at a recent awards ceremony at Fullerton College. A co-third place in newspaper general excellence was awarded, as well as a third place for the magazine "Warrior Life."

Former photographer Amira Petrus and current editor-in-chief John Fordiani won second place in the magazine photo essay category. Fordiani and photo editor Jorge Villa also won fourth and second place, respectively, for their sports action photos. Longtime cartoonist Eugene Chang won second place for his artwork, and former editor Jessica Martinez won third place for her informational graphic on the history of the school's football stadium.

The Union, which is run by students enrolled in Journalism 11 - Newspaper Publication, has been a leader in community college journalism since it began publishing in 1946.

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