

AU Student Reporter Wins Prestigious Journalism Award

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Alfred, NY -- Jasmine Lellock, a May 2000 graduate, won a national award this spring for the first news story she ever wrote for Alfred University's student newspaper. She won \$25 -- a significant sum when you realize that non-profit organizations for journalism education can rarely afford any financial awards -- from the Associated Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication, an international alliance. Her story won third prize in the US division. An English major from Punxsutawney, PA, Lellock had written features, criticism, and arts reportage for the bi-weekly *Fiat Lux*, where she was Arts and Entertainment Editor. But she had never tackled hard news until writing a March 29, 2000, piece detailing reactions to Pope John Paul II's apology for crimes committed by members of the Roman Catholic Church against various groups. Because the Pope visited Israel shortly after the apology, Jewish reaction formed the focus of Lellock's piece. She interviewed Alfred-area Jews, including undergraduates, alumni, and professors, as well as non-Jewish professors and a Christian minister. Without explicitly saying so, Lellock's article concludes that although the Pope's apology was a positive step toward improving Jewish-Catholic relations, it was only a first step. The award was the second for Lellock's final student semester. She earlier won third prize in the "better college journalism feature writing" spring 2000 New York State Press Association contest. That prizewinning piece was a February 1999 account of a visit to her hometown to cover the Groundhog Day celebration. Lellock, who is working on web content at AU this summer, plans to head to Boston, MA, in August to look for a job in writing, journalism, or publishing. She is the daughter of Rod and Patti Burkett Lellock of Punxsutawney, PA.