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J-SCHOOL GRAD WINS RELIGION REPORTING AWARD

COLUMBIA – MU graduate Allison Ross (B.J. '08) recently earned second place in the Chandler Award competition honoring the best student religion reporters. Ross accepted the award Sept. 20, 2008, at the Religion Newswriters Association conference in Washington, D.C. She received \$300 and a plaque.

Ross submitted three articles, “People’s Synagogue,” “In From the Cold” and “Finding Faith Through Family” for consideration. The articles were published during the 2007-08 academic year in the University of Missouri’s *Columbia Missourian*. One judge described Ross’ stories as “written in a respectful tone,” adding, “The quotes are lively, the stories are well structured. I look forward to reading more from this writer.” The Chandler Award recognizes excellence in writing with emphasis on reporting skill and grasp of religion issues that is fair, balanced and in accordance with journalistic standards. It is named for Russell Chandler, an award-winning former religion writer for *The Los Angeles Times*.

Ross, a student in Debra L. Mason’s “Religion Reporting and Writing” course at MU in Spring 2008, graduated from University of Missouri in May 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. She currently is an intern at the *Palm Beach Post*, where she covers business. “Religion reporting and writing is a passion of mine,” Ross said. “I am so glad I got turned on to religion reporting while working at the *Missourian*, and am so grateful to Debra Mason and (*Missourian* religion editor) Laura Johnston at the university for nurturing and cultivating my reporting abilities on this beat.”

The Chandler was among several awards given at the Religion Newswriters Association conference recognizing the finest work by journalists covering religion. The Religion Newswriters Association is a nonprofit trade association for religion reporters. Mason, a journalism studies professor in the Missouri School of Journalism, directs the Religion Newswriters Association and MU’s Center on Religion & the Professions.