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**Arkansas Chapter of PRSA Honors Robert Phelps and Amy Barnes**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (March 13, 2009)** – Robert Phelps, director of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, and Amy Barnes, APR, assistant professor at the UALR School of Mass Communication, will be honored by the Arkansas Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America with its two most prestigious awards.

Phelps will receive the Diamond Award, given to an individual outside the profession who has effectively used public relations principles to advance the state. Jimmy Moses, 2007 recipient, will present the award to Phelps at the ceremony. Barnes will receive the Crystal Award, given to a public relations practitioner for lifetime achievements in the profession. Barnes will be presented with her award by 2008 recipient Markham Howe, APR.

The ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 20, at the Little Rock Club.

Phelps is a state leader in environmental advocacy. Prior to his success with Keep Arkansas Beautiful, he had a successful career in advertising. He was principal in three agencies including Robert Phelps and Associates, which he operated for 25 years. Since 1998, he has served Keep Arkansas Beautiful with effective leadership as he has guided its growth at a local, state and national level. Initiatives such as the Great Arkansas Cleanup and the Litter Hotline are evidence of his creative public relations and advertising strategies, which are praised and often duplicated by other Keep America Beautiful affiliates nationally. Phelps received the prestigious Keep America Beautiful Professional Leadership Award in 2006 in honor of his efforts.

Barnes has a long career as a public relations practitioner and a broadcast journalist.

She was a reporter, anchor and producer for KATV, Channel 7 and an editor and assistant news director for KARK, Channel 4. She later worked with the State Health Department in media relations and then joined the Arkansas Educational Television Network as operations manager and public affairs executive producer for various network public affairs programming. Prior to joining the faculty in the UALR School of Mass Communication, Barnes served as executive director of communications. At the university, she has produced and supervised several award-winning documentaries. Since joining in 1993, Barnes has served as a past president of PRSA Arkansas and recently as a chairman of the Southwest PRSA District, which serves 2,500 members in six states, including Arkansas.

Attendance at the awards luncheon is free to PRSA members, \$25 for nonmembers and \$15 for students. For reservations, contact Cheryl Lewter at [clewter@carltonbates.com](mailto:clewter@carltonbates.com) or 501-235-5244. Reservations should be submitted by March 16. Sponsors of the event include the Arkansas Broadcasters Association (ABA), Arkansas Press Association (APA), BurrellesLuce, UALR School of Mass Communication, UALR Office of Communications and Twin City Printing.

The Arkansas Chapter of PRSA is dedicated to developing and enriching the professional lives of Arkansas public relations practitioners. The chapter seeks to build understanding and support for public relations throughout the business community and within the academic community for future practitioners.

For more information about PRSA, visit [arkprsa.org](http://arkprsa.org).

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