

Emmy Winner Takes Home Another Statue

PERSON OF THE WEEK

By Erica Vento
Courier Staff Writer

All the researching, interviewing, and editing has paid off for North Haven resident Karyl Evans, who received her fifth Emmy Award from the Boston/New England chapter of the National Television Academy on May 20.

"I got my master's in radio and television at San Diego State University," says Karyl. "My first job was at a news station where women weren't producers yet. But because I had a production background I ended up producing all the SDSU sports programs."

Many producers dream about moving to Los Angeles and working with talented, famous people. Karyl worked hard to make that dream a reality.

"My first project was a tribute to a fashion designer. It was very high level," says Karyl. "I worked for New Vision Pictures for two years and our best project was *Long Walk Home* with Whoopie Goldberg. It was phenomenal."

Although Karyl enjoyed working on a variety of projects, her heart's desire was the intense research and production of documentaries.

"I love documentaries because they affect so many people," says Karyl. "There's so much research involved that you learn a lot. It really combined my interest in teaching and video."

Upon moving back to Connecticut in 1995, Karyl's first documentary was *The Amistad Revolt: All We Want Is Make Us Free*, which earned her the American Bar Association's national award, the Silver Gavel.

"I just love positive feedback. You put so much work into each piece that it really becomes your baby," says Karyl. "You put your entire life into it."

"Receiving an Emmy is like a stamp of approval. It meant my work was really good. I'm a perfectionist and they decided my films were worthy. It's a great feeling," says Karyl. "They are hard to get. It took me 19 years of nominations to get one."



Karyl Evans is a successful producer and mother. Photo by Erica Vento

Among her five Emmy awards and the Silver Gavel, Karyl has also received a Gracie Award given by the American Women in Radio and Television and the Cine Golden Eagle Award.

Her latest Emmy was for her piece *Creating the Peabody's Torosaurus: Dinosaur Science, Dinosaur Art*, which aired in January on CPTV.

"The other Emmys were all for the production of history of African Americans in Connecticut," says Karyl. "I love working on the pieces, but the most meaningful part is sending it off. I think of all the good it's doing and it makes me feel great."

Karyl is currently working on a documentary on the history of crime and punishment in Connecticut that will air in November.

"We are doing a lot of work at the Old New Gate Prison. It's been in use since 1797. I was stunned at how amazing it was there," says Karyl.

She is also working on the history of the Grove Street Cemetery where Eli Whitney is buried, the new orientation for the Noah Webster House in West Hartford, three projects for the New Haven Sympathy Orchestra, and two web-based projects for the Danbury Hospital and staff.

"Although I feel honored to interview

such intelligent and amazing people, my favorite part of my job is the editing," says Karyl. "You have to be organized, artistic, and understand technology. And when I edit I get to be all three."

Besides working as a producer, Karyl was a communications professor at Southern Connecticut State University, where she taught documentary production, video production, and cinematic technique.

"I loved teaching. It was really all about the students and what I can bring to them," says Karyl. "It was great for them because I know so many people. I was able to hook them up with a lot of contacts."

Being creative and making the most of life is something that Karyl does in and out of work. She loves watching her 13-year-old son Owen play baseball and the drums in his band.

"I like to be creative. I also love gardening, water painting, and pottery," says Karyl. "But there is a magic to filmmaking. It can really move you. I love being creative and I feel honored to have this job."

To nominate a person of the week, call 203-245-1877 ext 121 or e-mail e.vento@shorepublishing.com.