Knight Wins Jim Ed McGee Award

Cara Knight is the recipient of the 2013 Jim Ed McGee Award as the most outstanding graduate student at Arkansas Tech University. A native of Russellville and resident of Danville, Knight was presented with her award during the Arkansas Tech Graduate Council meeting at Tomlinson Hall on Tuesday. Knight earned a Master of Science degree in college student personnel from Arkansas Tech in May 2012. She is now employed as coordinator of student center operations in the Arkansas Tech Office of Student Services.

“I am extremely honored,” said Knight. “I am very appreciative that the faculty members and the committee found me worthy of this honor. It will be great to be able to look at this plaque in the years to come and remember all of the people who helped me in graduate school.”

Knight is the daughter of Debbie and John Slone of Russellville. Her husband is Brock Knight of Danville.

Dr. Mary Gunter, dean of the Arkansas Tech Graduate College, told those in attendance on Tuesday that the Jim Ed McGee Award is different from many other honors of its kind because nominations are made after students have completed their master’s degrees.

“This award is very special and near and dear to our hearts,” said Gunter. “The selection committee seeks to identify an individual who was outstanding during their time as a graduate student and a person who has kept the true spirit of Tech after graduation. Nominations are made by faculty members, and we look for a person who is contributing in the area they were prepared for and gives back to Arkansas Tech. Cara is a person who possesses all of those characteristics.”

Nominees must have completed their graduate course work with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.75.

The award’s namesake — Dr. Jim Ed McGee — served as vice president for academic affairs at Arkansas Tech from 1973 until the time of his passing in fall 1992.

His service to Arkansas Tech before attaining the rank of vice president included time as associate professor of education, director of institutional research, director of institutional services and director of development and public relations.

For more information about educational opportunities available through the Arkansas Tech Graduate College.