Dedicated to studying and improving communication in everyday life

Hugh Downs the Communicator

The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication is aptly named for a man who had a passion for life-long learning, a commitment to (and appreciation of) the role of communication in human interactions, and an ability to communicate effectively whether with one person or in large and diverse groups. Although best known for his long and successful career as a professional communicator and broadcaster, Hugh Downs also earned certificates in geriatric medicine and social gerontology, published papers on the relationships between communication and physics, co-authored with Ruth Downs, his wife of seventy years, a volume on successful relationships and composed a cello piece debuted by Yo-Yo Ma. A man who demonstrated a nuanced understanding of human communication across a wide array of contexts, Hugh Downs personified the school's mission of excellence in research, education and creative endeavors in the complex role of human communication in everyday life.

2020 Awards and Recognition
Unfortunately, due to the ever-changing and unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel the awards and recognition ceremony we usually hold in the spring semester.

This is particularly disappointing because each year, we gather to recognize our students who have excelled in their academics and say an in-person “thank you” to those who are at the heart of the work we do every day. However, we decided to print programs for you as if the ceremony were still being held!

Robert and Sue Karatz Forensics Endowed Scholarship
   Donor: Robert and Sue Karatz
   Recipient: Livingstone Joseph Gomez

House of Broadcasting, Inc. Endowed Scholarship
   Donor: House of Broadcasting, Inc.
   Recipient: Stephanie Lynn Gerhart

William and Teeny Drakos Endowed Scholarship
   Donor: William and Teeny Drakos
   Recipient: Sofia Alejandra Hidalgo

Alexander and Vivian Gentleman Endowed Scholarship
   Donor: Vivian Gentleman
   Recipient: Nicole Alyssa Ritman

Louis and Louise Menk Endowed Scholarship
   Donor: Mary Louise Menk
   Recipient: Melissa Bracamonte

Rusty and Rosie Lyon Endowed Scholarship
   Donor: Russ and Rosie Lyon
   Recipient: Daniela Casselle Wright

Hugh Downs Scholars Program Endowment
   Donor: Hugh and Ruth Downs
   Recipient: Amanda Marie Andalis

Barnes Scholarship Endowment in Communication
   Donor: Cindy Barnes
   Recipient: Merial Shantel Hutchinson

Norman K. Perrill Scholarship Endowment
   Donor: Norman K. Perrill
   Recipient: Lauren Meryl Chappell

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award – Dean’s Medal
   Recipient: Nicole Hinshaw

Graduate Student Awards

Christine Duff Muldoon Communication Fellowship
   Donor: Christine Duff Muldoon
   Recipient: B. Liahnna Stanley

Hugh Downs School Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award
   Recipients: Anya Hommadova
               Tyler Rife
               Kevin Shufford

Hugh Downs School Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award
   Recipient: Cristopher Tietsort

Hugh Downs School Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award
   Recipients: Brianna Avalos
               Megan Stephenson

Jeanne Lind Herberger Fellowship in Communication
   Donor: Jeanne Lind Herberger
   Recipients: Rebecca Leach
               Kyle Hanners

Performance Studies Awards

Kristin Bervig Valentine Scholarship in Performance Studies
   Donor: Kristin Bervig Valentine
   Recipients: Hugo Anthony Crick-Furman
               Ilona Sofia Vine

Dessie E. Larsen Graduate Fellowship in Performance Studies
   Donor: Janet Larsen Palmer and Neal Larsen Palmer
   Recipient: Rikki Tremblay

Service Awards
   5 Years: Elissa Adame, Gino Giannini, Deborah Way
   10 Years: Misa Pham, Alison Trego
   15 Years: Carol Comito
   20 Years: Benjamin Broome, Suzanne Wurster
   25 Years: Belle Edson
   30 Years: Janet Alberts