Hugh Downs the Communicator

The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication is aptly named for a man with a passion for lifelong 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 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 a volume on successful relationships with Ruth Downs, his wife of seventy years, and composed a cello piece debuted by Yo-Yo Ma. A man who demonstrates a nuanced understanding of human communication across a wide array of contexts, Hugh Downs personifies the school’s mission of excellence in research, education and creative endeavors in the complex role of human communication in everyday life.
Awards and Recognition

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel the awards and recognition ceremony we usually hold in the spring semester again this year.

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 was still being held!

Undergraduate Student Awards

House of Broadcasting, Inc. Endowed Scholarship
Donor: House of Broadcasting, Inc.
Recipient: Nicole Ritman

William and Teeny Drakos Endowed Scholarship
Donor: William and Teeny Drakos
Recipient: Alexander Long

Alexander and Vivian Gentleman Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Vivian Gentleman
Recipient: Drew Watt

Louis and Louise Menk Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Mary Louise Menk
Recipient: Lily Crisp

Rusty and Rosie Lyon Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Russ and Rosie Lyon
Recipient: Jamie Alexander

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication Scholars Program Scholarship
Donor: Hugh and Ruth Downs
Recipients: Maggie Sullivan, Corbin Kohtz

Barnes Scholarship Endowment in Communication
Donor: Cindy Barnes
Recipient: Mei Hashimoto

Norman K. Perrill Scholarship Endowment for the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication
Donor: Norman K. Perrill
Recipient: Nadia Jackson

Jennifer G. Kaplan Endowment Scholarship
Donor: Jennifer G. Kaplan
Recipient: Helena Pereira

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award – Dean’s Medal
Recipient: Sarah Mogtych

Hugh Downs Faculty Innovation Award
Donor: Hugh Downs’ Family: Deirdre L. Downs; Hugh R. “H.R.” Downs; Cameron A. Black
Recipient: Assistant Professor Liesel Sharabi

Graduate Student Awards

Herberger Fellowship in Communication Endowment
Donor: Jeanne Lind Herberger
Recipients: Brianna Avalos, Marco Dehnert

Christine Duff Muldoon Communications Scholarship Endowment
Donor: Christine Duff Muldoon
Recipient: Cassandra Snyder

Hugh Downs School Outstanding Doctoral Student Research and Creative Activities Award
Recipient: Rebecca Leach

Hugh Downs School Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award
Recipient: Lauren Mark

Hugh Downs School Outstanding Doctoral Student Service Award
Recipients: Laura Martinez, B. Liahnna Stanley

Hugh Downs School Outstanding Doctoral Student Mentorship Award
Recipient: Ana Terminel Iberri

Performance Studies Awards

Kristin Bervig Valentine Scholarship in Performance Studies
Donor: Kristin Bervig Valentine
Suspended for 2021 because of COVID-19 safety protocols for performance studies students and faculty

Dessie E. Larsen Graduate Fellowship in Performance Studies
Donor: Janet Larsen Palmer and Neal Larsen Palmer
Recipients: Tyler Rife, Ana Terminel Iberri

ASU Service Awards

5 Years: Ashley Gimbal, Jonathan Pettigrew
10 Years: Tristan Booth, Raena Quinlivan, Alexis Valianos
15 Years: Linda Lederman, Daniel Schwimmer
20 Years: Daniel Brouwer, Barbara DeDecker, Sarah Tracy
35 Years: Clark Olson