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

2020 Awards and Recognition

Hugh Downs School of Human Communication
Arizona State University
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
Recipient: 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
Recipient: Brianna Avalos
Megan Stephenson

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

Performance Studies Awards

Kristin Bervig Valentine Scholarship in Performance Studies
Donor: Kristin Bervig Valentine
Recipient: 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