

2013 Award Winners

Distinguished Teacher Award | Heather Walter, PhD.

Heather is an Associate Professor at The University of Akron, where, for the last 15 years, she has taught MA and BA students in organizational communication and conflict classes. She was recently appointed Associate Director of the School of Communication at The University of Akron.

Prior to this appointment, Heather served the last three years as the Director of Graduate Studies, working closely with graduate students, teaching the Introduction to Graduate Studies courses and advising many Master's Theses and Projects.

Heather spends a great deal of time helping graduate students to become budding scholars. One such relationship blossomed into an article published recently in the Ohio Communication Journal with her student Andrea Mitchell.

Heather is currently working on an internal University of Akron grant to transfer her Analyzing Organizational Communication course into an interactive online course for future Organizational Communication Consultants.

Distinguished New Teacher Award | Sheryl Cunningham

Dr. Sheryl Cunningham teaches courses in Rhetoric, Media Studies, and Communication Theory in Wittenberg University's Communication Department. She is currently teaching the introductory theory course, an intermediate course on media literacy, and an upper level course which focuses on environmental communication. She is also in the process of developing a new upper level course, to be offered in the spring, in which students will learn about feminist theoretical approaches to film and television criticism.

Most of her research is in the area of political communication; she is interested in how gender, as a category of identity, is both implicitly and explicitly (re)produced in political rhetoric. She'll soon be traveling to the Feminisms and Rhetorics conference at Stanford University to present her paper "Image Events in Pro-life Activism: Fetal Testimony and Performing Personhood." Her most recent publication is the co-authored piece "Accruing Masculinity Capital: Dominant and Hegemonic Masculinities in the 2004 Political Conventions" forthcoming in the journal *Men and Masculinities*.

Dr. Cunningham holds a B.A. from Bluffton University and an M.A. from Ohio University, both in English. She earned her Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Washington in June of 2008 and joined the Wittenberg faculty in the fall of 2008. While at Wittenberg she has been honored with the Outstanding Faculty Member Award from Wittenberg's Greek Life and the Lou Laux Environmental Sustainability Award for her work with students on a project to help decrease Wittenberg's energy consumption.

Distinguished Student Organization Award | WMC0 Radio

Muskingum University

WMC0 is celebrating 52 years on the air. The station was founded by a student and ran by students. Currently there are 32 members on staff. The station broadcasts new music, local news, sports, and specialty programming 24/7/365 from the Burlingame Communication Center at Muskingum University.

Top Poster Award

"Standing up for Spirituality: Legitimizing the Role of Chaplains in Health Care Interactions"

Kelly E. Tenzek, Bloomsburgh University

Emily M. Cramer and Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Top Undergraduate Poster Award

"Applying Expectancy Violation Theory in Skin Cancer Diagnosis"

Megan Salatino, Ashland University

Top Undergraduate Paper Award

"Attribute Agenda Setting and Framing of Political Messages: A Comparison of the News Media and Presidential Responses to School Shootings"

Kathryn Johnson, Ohio Northern University

Top Graduate Student Paper Award

"Digitally Impaired Driving: Understanding the Predictors of Mobile-Multitasking While Driving"

Scott Owen Chappuis and Sarah Conner, The University of Akron