

## 2014 Award Winners

### **Innovative Teacher Award | Dudley Turner, The University of Akron**

Dudley B. Turner has been at The University of Akron since 1986 as faculty, Director of the School of Communication, and Interim Dean of the College of Creative & Professional Arts. He received his Ph.D. in Organizational Communication from Purdue University, but started out with a Speech and Drama, Secondary Education degree from Asbury University (Kentucky) and performed in many productions (such as You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, The Mouse That Roared, The Most Happy Fella, Animal Farm and The Fantasticks). He has taught junior and senior high school students to university graduate students, courses across the spectrum of communication – public speaking, interviewing, professional presentations, communication theory, persuasion, research and pedagogy. He also completed a Professional Development certificate in distance education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

After 14 years in administration at the university, Dr. Turner returned to his first love of full time teaching and research. He develops online courses and uses various technologies in all learning. He is devoted to service learning and various experiential learning approaches whether on campus or virtually using Second Life and other mediated communication. His research focus is on technology use in learning, such as augmented reality and quest-based educational games, and the use learning management systems, online learning, and virtual worlds.

Dr. Turner lives near Akron, Ohio, enjoys outdoor activities, sports, swimming and golf, and when indoors likes to read and watch movies. He is married (35 years) and has two grown daughters and a dog.

### **Distinguished New Teacher Award | Laura Russell, Denison University**

Interested in ethics and civic engagement, Laura situates teaching as a platform for involving students as active citizens. At the interpersonal level, she designs unique assignments in which students act as co-researchers and co-participants in one another's lives. These dialogic projects and the co-operative inquiry methods they employ take place in courses with a creative twist, such as "Communicating Kindness" and "Communicating to Inspire." Such courses promote supportive communication, while also empowering students to seek out both conference and service opportunities. For instance, last year her students attended OCA to present a roundtable discussion titled, "Cultivating an Ethics of Goodwill: How Kindness Enlightens Practices of Scholarship, Teaching, and Service."

In the realm of service, Laura and her students worked with Behavioral Health Partners, a nonprofit organization in Newark, Ohio, to research techniques for raising awareness and reducing the stigma around mental illness. This service opportunity enabled students to acquire richer understandings of health communication, while also developing insight into the disparities affecting their surrounding communities. As one student noted, "My overall health and perception of health has changed considerably over the past semester. Not only do I see myself differently, but the world as well." Beyond the course context, students in Lambda Pi Eta expressed interest in continuing service with this organization. As the advisor for Denison's LPH Chapter, Laura and members of the honorary visited homes of

in-patient residents during the holidays. Alongside these activities, Laura is a Restorative Justice Facilitator while serving on various health-education committees at Denison.

### **Distinguished Program | Integrated Media Corps, Wittenberg University**

Wittenberg University's Integrated Media Corps (IMC) is a collaborative academic and work-study program developed to train media professionals of the future.

Created in 2010 as a collaborative effort of the administrative Office of University Communications and the academic Department of Communication, IMC provides Wittenberg students with opportunities to apply classroom lessons while gaining technical expertise. The program welcomes students from all majors, providing hands-on experience in media production and broadcasting while also meeting publicity and public relations needs for the university.

In its first year, the IMC included five students who primarily gained experience streaming live video of athletics events. It has evolved to include as many as 20 students working in a wide range of interest areas, including digital media, news releases, feature writing, website maintenance, video and audio production, and social media promotion. Many of the IMC students' projects are featured on the university's website, in printed publications, and across various social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

IMC students also attend classroom sessions that provide opportunities to discuss communications strategies and network with industry professionals who periodically give presentations. Guest lecturers have included journalists, videographers, cinematographers, photographers, radio and television personalities, public relations professionals, and entrepreneurs in the communications field.

IMC students continue to explore their creative outlets, thanks to new curricular opportunities developed by academic advisors Sheryl Cunningham, associate professor of communication, and Matt Smith, professor of communication, and site supervisors/program directors Ryan Maurer, director of athletics communications, John Strawn, associate director of athletics communications, Erin Pence, university photographer, and Seth Iames, director of communications and online content.

### **Distinguished Undergraduate Student | Lauren Fattlar, Ashland University**

Lauren is originally from Westlake, Ohio and a senior at Ashland University. She holds a triple major in communication studies, specifically, Health and Risk Communication, Strategic Communication and Public Relations, and Sport Communication. She has presented research at Ohio Communication Association and Eastern Communication Association, and will be debuting at National Communication Association this coming year. In addition, she presented a paper titled "A Discourse Analysis of Contradictory Health Messages on the Iconic Show, The Secret Life of the American Teenager" at Ashland University's Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity symposium last spring. Outside the classroom, she serves as vice-president of Ashland University's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter and its sister organization, Accent on PR, and as the secretary of the Sports Communication Club. She also serves as the president of the honorary fraternity, Lambda Pi Eta. Throughout her years at Ashland, she has held three internships applying her knowledge and skills in PR at the following organizations: The Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, Ohio, the City of Ashland, and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

**Top Graduate Paper**

**"#BostonStrong: Exploring the Impression Management Strategies of Twitter Users During the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing"**

Benjamin Brojakowski, Bowling Green State University

**Top Undergraduate Paper**

**"Calvin Klein and the Use of Sex in Advertising"**

Lauren Nicole Staley, Ohio Northern University

**Top Student Poster**

**"Expectancy Violation Theory: How Expectations Impact Incoming University Athletes"**

Lauren Fattlar, Ashland University

Adena A. Siefert, Ashland University

**Top Poster**

**"The United Nations: Images from Two Worlds, 1945-65"**

Anne Cooper-Chen, Ohio University

Kay-Anne Darlington, Ohio University

Kesha Liao, Ohio University