

2015 Award Winners

Innovative Teacher Award Winner | Dr. Nancy Jennings, University of Cincinnati

Dr. Nancy Jennings studies the impact of media on the lives of children and their families and public policies and practices involved with children's media. Her research focuses on children's cognitive and social development and their use of media. She employs experimental design as well as qualitative methodologies to explore children's relationships with media characters. She has also conducted evaluation research on educational media and outreach programs as well as conducting content analyses and textual analyses of media content. She has also recently published a book ([Tween Girls and Their Mediated Friends](#)) focusing on girls and their relationships with media characters. Dr. Jennings has published on other topics including virtual environments, children's advertising, families and media, and media violence. She provides parent education programs on children's media use, directs the [Children's Education and Entertainment Research \(CHEER\) Lab](#), and has published peer-reviewed journals articles and book chapters. Her passion for children's media carries over into her teaching and serves as the inspiration for her innovative study abroad program. Dr. Jennings teaches students about the integration of research, curriculum, and production (like that of the *Sesame Street* model) that work together to make learning fun and accessible for young children around the world. With the motive of teaching and living the *Sesame Street* global model of education and cultural respect, she developed a study abroad experience in which college students could learn about children's media from around the world with an appreciation for culture, child development, and media production and research.

Distinguished Undergraduate Student | Megan Salatino, Ashland University

Salatino is triple majoring in public relations and strategic communication, health and risk communication and sport communication at Ashland University in Ashland, Oh. In her academic career, she has won the top undergraduate poster award for OCA in 2013 and ECA in 2015. She is a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the communication honorary, Alpha Lambda Delta, an honor society and Omicron Delta Kappa, a leadership honorary. At Ashland, she has been named as the Outstanding Sophomore and Junior award in her department. Actively, she is involved as President of the Sport Communication Club on campus as well as Vice President of the school's PRSSA chapter. Through experience, she has completed several internships in the communication and social media world. This includes redesigning the University's Football Team social media sites to rebrand their name into NCAA compliance as well as increase the fandom by over 500 followers. This past summer, she interned at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. where she managed and updated social media analytics to show increases in hits through all social channels and participated in a market research study to find non-visitors perceptions of Phipps Conservatory. Salatino is passionate about learning all facets of communication and is excited to take that learning upon graduation to her future career.

Distinguished Undergraduate Student | Hannah Peterson, Ohio Northern University

Hannah is a senior public relations major, communication studies and social media minor at Ohio Northern University. She is involved in various organizations on campus, holding leadership roles in each. Within the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA),

Hannah has served as Secretary, National Assembly Delegate and is currently serving her second term as President. She received the PRSSA Outstanding New Member Award after showing promise and Outstanding Chapter Member for her commitment to the overall success of the organization. Within True North nationally affiliated student-run firm, Hannah has worked on projects for various clients. Her Bateman Case Study Competition team received Honorable Mention for the national client, FISERV. In the Student Planning Committee, she served as an Event Coordinator and is currently the Vice President of External Affairs. A sister of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, Hannah was the Social Chair and is currently serving her second term as the Historian/Chapter Reporter. She is a member of Mortar Board, member and President of Lambda Pi Eta and has been on the dean's list four consecutive semesters. In addition to schoolwork and leadership roles, Hannah currently works as a public relations intern for Cristofoli-Keeling, Inc., marketing intern for Communications and Marketing, assistant for Alumni Relations and social media intern for Dining Services. Previously, she was a featured blogger for the International Studies Abroad (ISA) top-ranked travel blog during her study abroad experience in Ireland and a special events intern at All Occasions Catering and Banquet Facility in Waldo, Ohio.

Distinguished Undergraduate Student | Margaret Douglass, Denison University

My name is Margaret Douglass, I'm from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and am currently a senior at Denison University double majoring in communication and women's and gender studies. My current research interests explore gender and organizational communication. With regard to academic undertakings, spring term of 2015 I had the honor of being selected to serve as a Communication Departmental Fellow, where I perform research and clerical tasks for professors. I also hold the departmental fellow title within my women's and gender studies major. Moreover, fall of my junior year a colleague and I co-authored a research paper originally intended for a communication course. The project, "*My Three Sons: An Unconventional Approach to American Conformity*", was selected and presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Undergraduate Research Conference which took place at Smith College last April. On an extracurricular front, I hold the Membership and Recruiting Chairman position within my sorority, *Kappa Kappa Gamma*, and enjoy volunteering at the Humane Society in Granville, Ohio.

Winning Paper - A Grounded Theory Analysis of Turkish Online New Comments After the Charlie Hebdo Attack, Esen Saygin Koc, *Bowling Green State University*

Winning Poster - Bullies on My Phone!: A Discursive Analysis of "Yik Yak's" Impact on the Social Culture of Liberal Arts College, Archit Agarwal, *Denison University*