

Comm Awards and Student Showcase – Submission Guidelines

In April 2014, the Department of Communication will host the third annual Communication Student Showcase to celebrate Communication majors' many forms of achievement and expression. Submit your work for a chance to be recognized by peers and faculty, including a **top prize of \$150** in each category!

The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, March 25th, 2014.**

PRIZES!

A top prize of \$150 in each category!

Showcase prizes are funded by our generous UMass Communication Alumni.

SHOWCASE CATEGORIES

- **AUDIO-VISUAL WORK**
- **COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT**
- **RESEARCH**
- **SPEECH/PERFORMANCE**
- **WRITING**

All submitted work may be showcased in some form – whether through performance, screening, poster, or online - and awards and recognitions will be distributed at the April event.

We're seeking submissions of work that either are produced in Communication classes *or* are inspired in some way by your experience as a Comm major. Both individual and team-based submissions are welcome; team submissions must include at least one Communication major as a principle contributing team member. The categories are:

AUDIO-VISUAL WORK – Video, film, photography, multimedia, radio, podcasts, music, and visual art are welcomed in this category. The preferred submission format is online (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo). If submitting on CD or DVD please use a common format that can be accessed on most computers (e.g. Quicktime movie, jpps, mp3). If your project does not lend itself to electronic distribution, please contact Professor Emily West (ewest@comm.umass.edu) to make arrangements for it to be viewed by the judges. Maximum length for submissions is 15 minutes. For longer works please choose a 15-minute portion to submit.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT – Leadership in the community through activism, community-building, or outreach projects are welcomed in this category. These community-based projects might originate in a class or occur outside of class, but the connection to and inspiration from your experience in the Communication major should be evident. Your submission must include, at minimum, a personal statement, and if feasible, a letter from a community partner or community member describing your role and the impact of the project. Your submission may also include documentation of any tangible output or events that occurred as part of the project using photos, video, or other forms of documentation.

RESEARCH – We invite submissions of original research for this category. By this we mean papers or other formats that draw on original data – such as surveys, interviews, ethnography, media analysis, conversation analysis, and criticism – to support an argument or new perspective on communication. Maximum length is 2500 words. For longer works please submit a 2500 word portion or a 2500 word abstract or section of the paper.

SPEECH/PERFORMANCE – This category includes speeches and performances of all kinds, including speeches from COMM 260, performances from COMM 125 or other classes, and other kinds of performances not specifically originating in a Communication course. Please submit an audio-visual recording of your speech or performance. The preferred submission format is online video (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo). If submitting on DVD please create a Quicktime movie or use a common format that can be accessed by most computers. If you do not have access to recording equipment, please arrange to borrow equipment from the circulation desk in the Learning Commons of the W.E.B. DuBois library. Maximum length for submissions is 15 minutes. For longer works please choose a 15-minute portion to submit.

WRITING – Any written product qualifies for this category, excluding research which should be submitted in the research category. Submissions may include persuasive essays, fiction, screenwriting, poetry, and more. Maximum length is 2500 words. For longer works please submit a 2500 word portion or a 2500 word abstract or section of the paper.

How to submit your work to the showcase:

1. Identify the one category into which your work fits best and observe the guidelines for length and format.
2. Submit a cover letter and your submission by the March 25th deadline to: ewest@comm.umass.edu. Your cover letter must include the category you are submitting to, a project description, and how your project connects to the field of Communication.
3. Make sure your submission includes your name and email address. For team-based submissions, include the names and email addresses and majors for all team-members, and their roles in the project (at least one principle team member must be a Communication major).

Questions about the submission process? Please contact Emily West at ewest@comm.umass.edu, Tel: 413-545-6345.

Judging Criteria

A panel of faculty and students will select award recipients using the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated connection to Communication
2. Impact of the ideas and perspectives communicated by the work
3. Excellence in the work's specific mode of execution, e.g. community-based project, speech/performance, visual work, writing

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday March 25th, 2014.