



2024
**AWARDS
BANQUET**

**COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM
AND COMMUNICATIONS**



2024 AWARDS BANQUET

APRIL 20, 2024

WELCOME

Hub Brown, Dean

DINNER

2024 HALL OF FAME

Hub Brown, Dean

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

Hub Brown, Dean

GRADUATE STUDIES AWARDS

Robyn Goodman, Associate Dean

RESEARCH AWARDS

Marcia DiStaso, Associate Dean

ADVERTISING

Huan Chen, Chair

JOURNALISM

Ted Spiker, Chair

MEDIA PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

Roxane Coche, Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Myiah Hutchens, Chair

MEDIA PROPERTIES

Randy Wright, Executive Director

COLLEGE-WIDE AWARDS

Hub Brown, Dean

2024 AWARDS BANQUET

WELCOME

Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests
Hub Brown, Dean

DINNER

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Presented by Hub Brown, Dean

Raja Abdulrahim

B.S. Journalism 2004

August (Augie) E. Grant

B.S. Broadcasting 1977, M.A.J.C. 1981

Larry Meador

B.S. Public Relations 1995

Stefanie Nimick

B.S. Telecommunication 1989

Rebecca Patterson

B.S. Journalism 1990

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

Presented by Hub Brown, Dean

Teacher of the Year Award

Iman Zawahry

Lecturer, Media Production,
Management, and Technology

Faculty Mentor of the Year

Houston Wells

Senior Lecturer, Media Production,
Management, and Technology

Outstanding Doctoral Mentor Award

Yu-Hao Lee

Associate Professor, Media Production,
Management, and Technology

Professional Advisor of the Year Award

Chanelle Cox

Superior Accomplishment Award

Jessica Osegueda

Event Manager, Office of the Dean

Adjunct Teacher of the Year Award

Melanie Fridl Ross

Journalism

GRADUATE AND RESEARCH AWARDS

GRADUATE STUDIES

Robyn Goodman, Associate Dean

The Julie Dodd Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

Eliana DuBosar

Outstanding Master's Student: In Residence

Gwiwon (Jason) Nam

Outstanding Master's Student: Online

Ludmilla D'Alessandro

RESEARCH

Marcia DiStaso, Associate Dean

Outstanding Student Research Award

Chelsea E. Moss

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

ADVERTISING

Huan Chen, Chair

Outstanding Advertising Scholar

Reagan Lynn de La Cruz

Joseph R. Pisani Service Award

Jackie Truong

W. Robert Glafcke Award

Karen-June McEachern

Richard W. McGinnis Professional Promise Award

Kayla Mys

John Sutherland Great Ideas Award

Jacob Wall

Marshall Respass Award

Freya Garcia

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

JOURNALISM

Ted Spiker, Chair

Outstanding Journalism Scholar

Veronica Nocera

John Paul Jones Jr. Award

Alan Halaly

Elmer Emig Award

Kennedy Mason

H.G. "Buddy" Davis Award

Silas Morgan

Jean Chance Service Award

Isabella Douglas

Jon Roosenraad Society of Professional Journalists Award

Jiselle Lee

WJXT-TV Award

Christopher Will

MEDIA PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

Roxane Coche, Chair

Outstanding Scholar

Alexmary Fayiga

Major Garland Powell Award

Luigi Bencosme

Ty Capellini

May Burton Award

Nadia Cox

Isabel Crist

F. Leslie Smith Management Award

Luis Lageyre

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Myiah Hutchens, Chair

Outstanding Public Relations Scholar

Olivia Maroney

Frank F. Rathbun PRSSA Award

Orla McQuaid

Charles Wellborn Service Award

Marium Abdulhussein

Jack Detweiler Professional Promise in Public Relations Award

Rebecca Wolff

Florida Public Relations Association Award

Shandia Lewis-Booker

MEDIA PROPERTIES

Randy Wright, Executive Director

Jon Quattlebaum Award

Mariana Larsen

Ralph L. Lowenstein Broadcast News Award

Jimena Romero Guzman

Kenneth A. Christiansen Award

Serra Sowers

Frank Counts TV Production and Creative Services Award

Daniel Haviv

Walter "Red" Barber Award

Bennett Solomon

Doris Bardon Award

Ailee Shanes

Excellence in Digital Media Award

Sandra McDonald

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

MEDIA PROPERTIES *continued*

Excellence in Media Leadership

Elena Bressler
August Hoff

Excellence in Multimedia Meteorology Award

Derrah Getter

Excellence in Spanish-Language Media Award

Jose Tovar

COLLEGE-WIDE AWARDS

Hub Brown, Dean

Dean's Cup for Professional Promise

Christopher Will

Dean's Cup for Scholarship

Alexmary Fayiga
Reagan Lynn de la Cruz
Olivia Maroney
Veronica Nocera

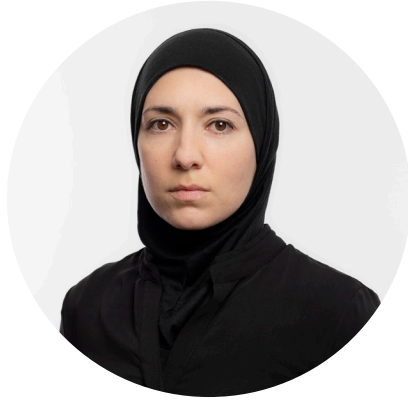
Dean's Cup for Service

Luis Lageyre

Ruth and Rae O. Weimer Award

Alan Halaly
Shandia Lewis-Booker

HALL OF FAME



Raja Abdulrahim

B.S. Journalism 2004

Raja Abdulrahim has been the New York Times Jerusalem correspondent since 2021. Prior to that, she was a journalist with the Wall Street Journal and the Los Angeles Times, where she was a member of Metro staff. Once the Arab Spring revolutions began, she went first to Egypt and reported from Tahrir Square during the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and then to Libya to cover the first weeks of that country's uprising.

She then spent several years reporting from the Middle East, especially covering Syria. Her coverage of Syria's civil war was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2014 and won an Overseas Press Club Award.

HALL OF FAME



August (Augie) E. Grant

B.S. Broadcasting 1977, M.A.J.C 1981

Augie Grant is a technology futurist who specializes in research on new media technologies and consumer behavior. He currently is the J. Rion McKissick Professor of Journalism at the University of South Carolina College of Information and Communications and formerly director of the university's Center for Teaching Excellence. He is the co-editor of the highly regarded Communication Technology Update and Fundamentals, now in its 18th edition.

In addition to exploring new communication technologies, Grant's research explores media audience behavior, convergent journalism, radio and television broadcasting, and applications of network analysis to the study of media organizations and audiences. Grant, a former member of the Broadcasting Education Association Board of Directors and former president, in 2020 received the organization's Distinguished Education Service Award.

HALL OF FAME



Larry Meador

B.S. Public Relations 1995

Larry Meador co-founded Evok Advertising, establishing himself as a pivotal figure in Florida's advertising landscape. With its roots deeply planted in Orlando and an influential presence in Tallahassee, Evok has become a beacon for innovation and excellence since 2002, specializing in the credit union, travel and tourism, and healthcare/behavior change sectors.

Under Meador's strategic leadership, Evok has garnered numerous accolades, affirming its stature within the advertising community. Forbes recognized Evok as one of the Top 100 Social Media Agencies worldwide and Filestage named it the Best Boutique Agency Blog in the U.S.

Deeply committed to his alma mater, Meador's contributions range from serving on the UFCJC Advertising Department Advisory Council, where he has been both a member and chair, to engaging as a member of the Gator Boosters Board of Directors and a Bull Gator.

HALL OF FAME



Stefanie Nimick

B.S. Telecommunication 1989

Stefanie Price Nimick is senior vice president of portfolio distribution and partner marketing for Hallmark Media. She is responsible for managing Hallmark Media's strategic plans for partner relationships including carriage agreements and distribution of content on traditional and new platforms.

Before joining Hallmark Media, Nimick served as senior vice president, distribution & partnership marketing at STARZ. In this role, she led negotiation efforts for multi-platform distribution agreements on STARZ's legacy and emerging platforms, resulting in more than \$1 billion in annual revenue in licensing agreements with all major distributors. She also oversaw all partnership initiatives for new business growth, point of sale strategy, distribution marketing and sales operations, including contractual marketing commitments.

Before STARZ, she held distribution leadership roles at AMC Networks for nearly 13 years, where she developed and implemented multi-platform distribution and marketing strategies for AMC, WE tv, IFC, Sundance and IFC Films.

HALL OF FAME



Rebecca Patterson

B.S. Journalism 1990

Rebecca Patterson is a globally recognized investor and macro-economic researcher with more than 25 years' experience studying how politics and policy intersect with economic trends to drive financial markets. She was most recently chief investment strategist at Bridgewater Associates, the world's largest hedge fund. She previously served as Chief Investment Officer at Bessemer Trust, where she oversaw \$85 billion in client assets.

Patterson currently is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission and the Economic Club of New York, and is Chair of the Board of the Council for Economic Education. She has served on the New York Federal Reserve's Foreign Exchange and Investor Advisory Committees and served on and chaired the University of Florida's Investment Corporation Board. She and her husband Robert Frank established a fund at UFCJC to support students who find themselves in financial difficulty due to unexpected circumstances or crises.

HISTORY OF COLLEGE AWARDS

Ruth and Rae O. Weimer Award for Outstanding Graduate of the College

The College's top awards each year are the Weimer Awards, named for Rae O. Weimer, the founding director and first dean, and his first wife, Ruth.

A man who had no college degrees, Weimer led the College to national prominence by the force of his personality and vision. He came to UF in 1949 and by the time he retired as dean 19 years later, he had transformed the College from a three-man academic unit into the second largest college of its type in the nation and sent almost 2,000 graduates on their way. He spent 25 years in the newspaper industry before coming to UF and was the managing editor of New York PM, the nation's first modern newspaper without advertisements.

Weimer was beloved by students, alumni and faculty alike. He was known to fight for his students and faculty, and to hire top journalists as faculty members even when the University objected to those who didn't have top degrees in their field.

Weimer died in November of 1996 at the age of 93 and is survived by a daughter, son and two grandsons. Ruth preceded him in death in 1979 and his second wife, Wilma, died in February of 2015.

GRADUATE AND RESEARCH AWARDS

The Julie Dodd Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

This award recognizes the accomplishments of award-winning Journalism Professor Julie Dodd, one of the finest graduate student teachers in the College's history. Dodd, who retired in 2016, epitomized the value of great teaching. The award honors Dodd's dedication and 28 years of teaching.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Joseph R. Pisani Award for Service in Advertising

Joe Pisani, who joined the Advertising faculty in 1973, served as chair of the department for a record-breaking 18 years. Pisani managed the department at a time of record-high enrollment. He retired from the faculty in 2005. Pisani still lives in Gainesville and visits the College often.

W. Robert Glafcke Award for Leadership

The Award for Leadership in the Department of Advertising is named for Robert Glafcke, who was on the College faculty in the early 1970s. He was very focused on building young leaders through his work with student organizations. He was named publisher of the *Houma Daily Courier*, a New York Times regional newspaper in Houma, La., in 1982. After leaving the newspaper business, Glafcke moved to Atlanta and opened a printing facility. He died in the late 1980s.

Richard W. McGinnis Award for Professional Promise in Advertising

Richard William McGinnis, B.S. Advertising 1958, is a major donor to The Agency and Advertising Department. While a student, McGinnis worked for the UF Sports Publicity Department. After graduating, he worked in the advertising field, including 21 years with Turner Advertising and Turner Communications in Atlanta. He retired in 1983 and then ran a small advertising agency for five years.

John Sutherland Great Ideas Award

One of the national leaders in advertising higher education, John Sutherland was chair of the Advertising Department from 2001 to 2013, when he retired from UF after more than 35 years of service. The award recognizes an exceptional creative thinker who has demonstrated innovative ideas that have the potential to significantly impact advertising problems.

Marshall Respass Award for Outstanding Advertising Graduate

The Department of Advertising's top award is named for Marshall Respass, a printer from Jacksonville who was a strong supporter of what was then the School of Journalism during the Weimer era. Records are limited, but it is believed he owned Respass Printing & Engraving and died sometime in the 1960s.

JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT AWARDS

John Paul Jones Jr. Award for Magazine/Feature Writing Excellence

The magazine/feature writing excellence award is named for John Paul Jones Jr., B.S. Journalism 1937, who, in 1948, was the third faculty member hired by the College. Jones followed Weimer as dean, serving from 1968-76, and it was during his tenure that the College broke into separate departments and plans began for a new building that would become the current Weimer Hall. Jones was a leader in the newspaper industry, serving as the secretary-manager of the Florida Press Association for 16 years. A prolific writer, he created *Guide to North Florida Living* magazine in 1981 and ran it until 1997. He died in 2001.

Elmer Emig Award for Professional Promise in Journalism

The Professional Promise Award in the Department of Journalism is named for Elmer Emig, the first head of the department. When journalism became part of the UF College of Commerce and Journalism in 1927, then Dean Walter Matherly hired Emig. He headed the department for nearly 25 years. In addition to his faculty work, Emig wrote editorials for Florida newspapers, and helped organize UF's chapter of Sigma Delta Chi. He died in 1956.

H.G. “Buddy” Davis Award for Promise in Reporting and Editing

Most alumni from the 1950s through the 1980s have a story to tell about H.G. “Buddy” Davis, B.S. Journalism 1948, M.A.M.C. 1952. This award is named for Davis, who taught almost every journalism course during his tenure. On the Journalism faculty from 1954 until he retired in 1985, Davis also wrote editorials for the Gainesville Sun from 1962-1989. He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1971 for a series of editorials he wrote in 1970 calling for tolerance during school desegregation in Alachua County. He died in 2004 at the age of 80.

Jon Roosenraad Society of Professional Journalists Award

The award for a top graduate in journalism is named after the Society of Professional Journalists, a leading industry association. The award was renamed the Jon Roosenraad Society of Professional Journalists Award in honor of the former CJC Journalism Department professor and chair who passed away in 2023.

Jean Chance Service Award

Professor Jean Chance taught for 33 years in the College of Journalism and Communications. Besides serving on many College and University committees, she served as a judge for numerous newspaper and magazine writing competitions, and was faculty adviser for student chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists and Women in Communications Inc. In 1982, she was awarded the College Faculty Service Award. Since retiring from the University in 2003, she has served on the board of Campus Communications, Inc., publisher and chair of *The Independent Florida Alligator*.

WJXT-TV Award

The top award for students in television news is named for Jacksonville television station WJXT-TV. Florida's second television station and Jacksonville's first, WJXT (then WMBR) went on the air in 1949. For years, it was the CBS affiliate serving the North Florida area. The station has long been considered one of the top news stations in the Southeast and numerous College alumni have worked at the station.

MEDIA PRODUCTION, MANAGEMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Major Garland Powell Award for Service in Broadcasting

Major Garland Powell was the first station manager of WRUF, which went on the air as an AM station in 1928. It was among the first five radio stations in Florida. The state of Florida had just been hit by fierce hurricanes in 1926, which washed away an era of statewide prosperity and land speculation, and a group of businessmen wanted to use the radio waves as a way of luring people back to the Sunshine State. Powell was faced with the daunting task of commercializing the station and keeping it on the air after the Great Depression hit in the early 1930s. One of Powell's earliest finds was Red Barber, who went on to become one of America's most beloved and popular radio sportscasters.

F. Leslie Smith Management Award

The top award for students in the Media Management Track is named for Leslie Smith, B.S. Telecommunication 1961, retired Telecommunication Department chair and faculty member. Smith joined the faculty in 1982 and taught in the management sequence until his retirement in 2005. The award was created in his honor in 2003.

May Burton Award for Excellence in Production

The award for excellence in broadcast production is named for May Burton, an early pioneer in educational television at WUFT-TV in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Burton taught summer courses each year on educational television for local schoolteachers, and broadcast many in-class television lessons for the public schools. She died at a relatively young age in the 1960s.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Frank F. Rathbun PRSSA Award

Frank Rathbun, B.S. Journalism 1936, M.A.M.C. 1971, joined the faculty in 1968, primarily teaching public relations, magazine and feature writing, and writing for mass communications. He was a long-time faculty adviser to the UF Public Relations Student Society of America chapter and retired in 1978.

Charles Wellborn Award for Service in Public Relations

A beloved faculty member for over 19 years, Charlie Wellborn was the “guru of magazines.” Wellborn was the architect of many courses in the College, including editing and graphics, and business/technical communications. The Florida Magazine Association created the “Charlie Award” to recognize the top entry in each category of its annual magazine contest. He was a retired Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army and often shared stories from World War II. He died in 2002 at the age of 77.

Jack Detweiler Award for Professional Promise in Public Relations

The Professional Promise in Public Relations Award is named for Jack Detweiler, B.S. Journalism 1952, Ed.D. 1969, who was a longtime faculty member of the Public Relations Department and served as department chair during the late 1980s/early 1990s. He joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 2004. In his early years, Detweiler was known more to the College’s journalism majors, serving as the director of student publications where he helped advise the *The Alligator* during the years immediately prior to the newspaper becoming independent and moving off campus.

Florida Public Relations Association Award

The award for the top student in the Department of Public Relations is named for the Florida Public Relations Association, the leading association for public relations professionals in the state. Founded in 1938, FPRA is the oldest public relations organization in the United States. Today, the association boasts nearly 1,500 professional and student members at chapters across the state.

MEDIA PROPERTIES AWARDS

Jon Quattlebaum Award for Outstanding News Student at WUFT-TV

Jon Quattlebaum, B.S. Telecommunication 1990, was a popular Telecommunication student and one of the News Five anchors on WUFT-TV. After graduating, Quattlebaum worked as a reporter at both a Sarasota television station and WINK-TV in Fort Myers. In 1994, while on a trip to Phoenix to interview for another reporting position, he died at the age of 26 of injuries suffered in a hiking accident on Camelback Mountain.

Ralph L. Lowenstein Broadcast News Award for Excellence in News at WUFT-FM

The broadcast news award for WUFT-FM is named for Ralph Lowenstein, the visionary dean of the College from 1976-1994. He guided the College as it completed and moved into Weimer Hall in 1980, worked tirelessly for a more diverse student body, developed the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information and significantly expanded the College’s private support. He passed away in 2020 at the age of 90.

Kenneth A. Christiansen Award for Service to Both WUFT-TV and WUFT-FM

Kenneth A. Christiansen, WUFT-TV's first station manager, was internationally renowned for his knowledge of educational television when he arrived in 1958, having served as a consultant in India, England and the Far East. The award in his honor is given to a student who is exemplary in service to both WUFT-TV and WUFT- FM. Christiansen also served as chairman of the Broadcasting Department until he retired in 1977. He died in 1996 at the age of 82.

Frank Counts TV Production & Creative Services Award

Frank Counts, who retired in 2010 after more than 37 years, was a Telecommunication assistant professor and production manager for WUFT-TV. Counts joined the faculty in 1972 and taught hundreds of students interested in radio and television broadcast production.

Doris Bardon Award for Overall Excellence in Broadcasting at WUFT-FM

Doris Bardon, Alachua County activist and author, was one of the founding members of public radio station WUFT-FM. She was part of a team of community leaders that created a plan and solicited funding in 1981 to create a radio station serving listeners in North Central Florida. The award honors a student who excels in all areas of the broadcast operation.

Walter "Red" Barber Award - WRUF

Any student with an interest in sports yearns for the coveted W.L. "Red" Barber Award for the top student in sports at WRUF-AM. One of the nation's most famous broadcasters, Red Barber, B.S. Journalism 1930, served as sports director for CBS and broadcast 13 World Series and six All-Star Games. He joined the staff at WRUF in 1929 after reading a scholarly paper over the air. He was the voice of the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1939 to 1953, and retired in 1966 as the voice of the New York Yankees. He had the distinction of broadcasting baseball's first night game and the sport's first televised contest in 1939 in Brooklyn. Barber is widely credited with playing a major role in the acceptance of Jackie Robinson's arrival to the major leagues in 1947. Barber was awarded an honorary degree from UF in 1970 and inducted into the College Hall of Fame that same year. He died in 1992.



**COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM
AND COMMUNICATIONS**