

TBD: To Be Discovered

*A Newsletter for the
Department of Communication
and Media Studies*



Congratulations to Communication and Journalism Seniors

by Margarita Lopez

Congratulations to all the journalism and communication students graduating this semester! Your hard work and dedication have brought you to this milestone in your life. PRSSA is proud of you and wishes you a bright and successful future.

Graduating Seniors:

Chloe Andrews, Adrian Cortes, Doug Davis, Brittany DeClue, Maggie DuVall, Austin Franklin, DaShawn Gove, Madison Herring, Cameron Jones, Braden Jones, Allison King, Alden Lucas, Josh Mitchell, Jaci Palmer, Jeff Phillips, Sarah Pollock, Candice Robinson, Dawson Rountree, Madison Terrell, Kami Turner and Ryley Welcher.



SPJ Seniors from left to right: Jaci Palmer, Maggie DuVall, Chloe Andrews, and Doug Davis. Also pictured: Megan Toland

Photographs by Emily Tyler



From left to right, front row: Doug Davis, DaShawn Gove, Madison Herring, Jaci Palmer, Chloe Andrews, and Maggie DuVall.

Back row: Dawson Rountree, Madison Starks, Elly Stone, and Braden Jones

Cupola Award Goes to Toland

by Elli White

Journalism professor Megan Toland received the 2023-2024 Cupola Award during the ATU Evening of Excellence on Monday, April 29.

This award is given annually to a Tech employee who has “gone above and beyond to deliver the highest standard of service for students and deserves to be recognized for consistently striving to achieve excellence.”

Toland was voted ATU professor of the year in 2019-20 by the student body and currently serves as the faculty advisor for the ATU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

“I’m here because of the students,” Toland said. “I love my students and I love my job, so this helps to symbolize that.”



Megan Toland

Jones and Starks Named Top Seniors

by Allie Davis



From the left: Breckyn Ballard, Braden Jones, and Madison Starks

Journalism student Braden Jones received the Alfred J. Crabaugh Award for outstanding male senior for the 2023-2024 academic year. The Margaret Young Award for outstanding female senior went to The Arka Tech co-editor Madison Starks.

Awards for outstanding undergraduate seniors were given out on April 28, during the annual Who’s Who reception. They will be honored again at the ATU commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 11. The event will start at 2 p.m.

SPJ Hosts Banquet for Journalism Students

by A.J. Chauffe and Lily Johnson

On Tuesday, April 23, ATU's chapter of SPJ held its first Jounries Awards banquet at Pasta Grill. Roughly fifty members of the communication and media studies department attended to celebrate the accomplishments of staff and students.

The event began with Dr. David Eshelman giving a toast commemorating the time spent with students, the graduates and relationships built while at ATU.

Afterward, SPJ President Doug Davis and Vice President Ivy Guzman hosted the event and handed out awards.

Graduating seniors were awarded engraved pens. Chloe Andrews, Maggie DuVall, Doug Davis, and Jaci Palmer received SPJ chords for graduation by SPJ.

During the ceremony, SPJ presented students and faculty with awards to commemorate their hard work and achievements, while also presenting some light-hearted awards for fun. The evening concluded with door prizes.

The awards are as follows:

Student Advisor of the Year: Megan Toland

Style Icon Star: Christie Kellar

Adobe InDesign Master: Dr. Hanna Norton

AP Style Master: Tommy Mumert

Walk the Walk and Tik'in the Tok: Dr. David Eshelman

Goes the Extra Mile: Janet Crouch

Supportive Mentor: Megan Toland

Never Leaves the Energy Center: Dr. Sangki Lee

Executive Producer of the Year: DaShawn Gove

Radio Manager of the Year: Dawson Rountree

PRSSA Member of the Year: Elli White

Arka-Tech Member of the Year: Nikki Victory

TV Producer of the Year: Ivy Guzman

SPJ Member of the Year: Doug Davis



Photographs by Emily Tyler



Jaci Palmer selecting her door prize

Journalism Students Attend ComGroup Classic

by Elli White

On April 3, six journalism students attended the second annual ComGroup Classic in Little Rock. The event, hosted by The Communications Group, aimed to immerse students into the field of public relations by presenting real-world tasks to complete.

Attending students were split into small groups led by agency professionals who specialized in each task. Students gained experience writing press releases, creating talking points, working in client relations and making effective social media posts.

At the end, the small groups presented their work to each other and reflected on their findings. Students concluded the day with lunch and learned about internship opportunities within the company.



From the left: Doug Davis, Braiden Jones, A.J. Chauffe, Jaci Palmer, Allie Davis, Elli White and Margarita Lopez.

SPJ and PRSSA attend Connect Event at Station 40/29

by Margarita Lopez

On Thursday, April 11, members from the Public Relations Student Society of America and Society of Professional Journalists traveled with Professor Megan Toland to the 40/29 news station in Rogers, Arkansas.

Doug Davis, Margarita Lopez, Kelsey Morris and Dayton Ross were able to meet industry professionals in news, production, marketing, advertising, sales, engineering and IT.



From the left: Margarita Lopez, Kelsey Morris, Dayton Ross and Doug Davis.

Tech Theater Presents “Take 10: A Night Of One Acts”

by Allie Davis

Directing Theory and Techniques students presented “Take 10 A Night of One Acts” on April 27 in the Techionery Theater. The production consisted of eight student-directed one-act plays and one short film. Five of the plays were also student-written.

When asked about her experience putting on the plays, student director Emma Guill said, “This was honestly my first show I’ve ever directed, and it was kind of overwhelming, but overall, my favorite thing about it was my actors. They worked so hard, they worked with me, and they taught me so many things I never thought I’d get to learn, so I’m thankful for them.”



Top row: Cassidy Stewart, Michael Rhodes Tripp Wilson, Rue Recinos, Lane Anderson, Kenzie McAnulty, Michael Rhodes, Chase Pyle, and Kiera McTyre

Middle row: Lane Anderson, Kiera McTyre, Chase Pyle, and Garren Rasdon

Bottom row: Kaley Jones, Gracen Roberts, Drake Taylor, and Ivy Guzman Aguero



2024 Who's Who Students Selected from Media Department

by Braden Jones

"I can't put into words how much ATU has impacted my life and how much I love this family, but it has been truly a life-changing experience for a girl from Peru!"



Ivy Guzman
Hometown: Lima, Peru
Major: Journalism
Parents: Patricia Branch and Miguel Guzman

"Receiving a Who's Who nomination feels like all of my hard work has paid off. Throughout my time at ATU, I strived to do everything to the best of my ability..."



Alli Beth King
Hometown: Rison
Major: Communications
Parents: Kim Kaye and Davy King

"As a first-generation student from immigrant parents, being chosen as a Who's Who recipient at Arkansas Tech University is more than just an honor..."



Margarita Lopez
Hometown: Siloam Springs
Major: Journalism
Parents: Brenda and Jose Lopez

"Being a Who's Who recipient means the world to me. I feel very blessed and honored to be among some of the hardest-working individuals at ATU..."



Madison Starks
Hometown: Bigelow
Major: English
Parents: Kristi and Jeff Starks