[SAC] A Round of Applause for SAC Award Winners
Adventist Communicators Mark 25 Years of Excellence with Awards

The Society of Adventist Communicators concluded its 25th anniversary celebration with an awards ceremony on Oct. 18 in Jacksonville, Fla.

The awards culminated with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Gerry Chudleigh, communication director for the Pacific Union Conference. This award is designed to honor veteran communication professionals who have made substantial contributions to the field for at least 25 years.

“Gerry is no stranger to the Society of Adventist Communicators, as he is a constant presence at our event,” shares George Johnson, awards host. “In fact if there is a communication event of any kind in the North American Division, it seems like Gerry is always there, with his camera taking pictures. His smiling face is something that can always be counted on at an Adventist event.”

Chudleigh’s career path began in youth ministry before transitioning to communication. As a photographer for Hope for Humanity, Chudleigh traveled to Africa, Central America and Asia to capture the needs and triumphs of the poor, sick and uneducated.

Beyond his skills in photography, Chudleigh is also a thoughtful researcher and writer. He recently focused on several hot topic issues within the Adventist church. The awards committee noted how his research and writings on the issues of church governance and women in ministry provided a clear level headed voice to a conversation dominated by yelling and distrust.

“Some people may not agree with everything that Chudleigh has written, but no one will deny the level of professionalism and passion that he displays in all of his work,” says Johnson on behalf of the awards committee. “Chudleigh is the definition of a professional communicator.”

As Chudleigh accepted the award, the audience of 150 student and professional communicators rose to their feet in a standing ovation.

Chudleigh took to the microphone to thank his friends in communication for their prayers as he faced his recent health struggles.
"This organization has meant a lot to me in the last 12 years," says Chudleigh. "Most of what I learned about how to do this work I learned at SAC. In fact, yesterday I learned something new in a photography class. I just want to thank all of you for you what you mean to me, for your encouragement and for the skills I've learned."

**Student Award**

On the other end of the career spectrum, Southern Adventist University student, Kendall Rittenour, received the Student Award. Rittenour is noted for his technical skill in photo and video assignments in addition to passionately telling stories. Rittenour worked on the Quiet Hour film crew in Costa Rica to capture footage for a new documentary series, developed promotional films for Loma Linda University, and shot video segments for the Hope Channel in Oshkosh.

“Kendall’s energy knows no bounds,” says Stephen Ruf, Southern Adventist University professor. “He’s willing to get up at 4 in the morning to hike a mountain to capture a breathtaking sunrise. He never complains about the conditions or the people. He just goes and shoots and brings back stunning images and sound.”

“Kendall epitomizes the kind of drive and talent we seek in our students,” notes the awards committee. “He is using his skill to benefit his church, mankind, at home and abroad.”

**Young Professional Award**

Nathan DeWild is the winner of the Society’s Young Professional Award that recognizes young talent in the communication field. DeWild has worked on several high profile projects that have been exposed to millions of people.

As a videographer with Journey Films, DeWild’s assignments take him from the jungles of the Amazon to the war zones of the Middle East. His projects include The Adventists 2 and The Blueprint.

“A 2011 graduate of Southern Adventist University, this young man has been a wonderful example of a Adventist professionals can make a difference in the world,” says that awards committee.

**Award of Excellence**

This award is chosen from all the Best in Class winners in six categories: corporate communication, new media, print, broadcast, graphic design and marketing/public relations. The Tag Hunter Game from The Hope Channel is this year's Award of Excellence recipient.

This game and interactive exhibit at Oshkosh Camporee included team members Fylvia Fowler Kline, Sonia Moses, Chima Nwanna and Travis Holman. The game ended up being one of the most popular exhibits at the Camporee with long lines of people waiting to take part.

**Reger Smith Cutting Edge Award**

This award is named in honor of the late Reger Cutting Smith Jr., who served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 27 years in public relations, graphic design, photography, and other areas of communication. This award honors communicators who produce creative, innovative and cutting edge projects and includes a monetary award.

Cutting Edge Award recipient this year is The Haystack.TV, a very creative project had the judges laughing at the very unique and original way to take a totally “Adventist thing” like the haystack and turn it into a way of sharing videos produced from various Adventist entities and members. Some of them are serious and take a long look at the life of the church and others make do an excellent job of poking fun at how we tend to take ourselves too seriously. We urge all of you to visit this very creative website at www.TheHaystack.tv.
Congratulations to the team of Keith Bowman II, Jeff Tatarchuk and Sam Moreno.

**Student Awards**
The Society added a new category of project awards for students this year to highlight writing, design, photography, videography, PR/marketing and social media projects.

**Best in Class for PR/Marketing/Social Media**
Stephen Foster, Union College student for his work in managing the Internal Communication Social Media team at the Oshkosh Forever Faithful International Camporee. He created a complex social media campaign to do pre-promotion, event coverage and follow up of the event for an audience of 50,000 people. He also managed a large team of social media volunteers.

**Best in Class for Design**
The student team from Andrew University for their work on the Envision magazine. This team always pushes the creative boundaries.

**Best in Class for Feature Writing**
Emily Leffler from Andrews University produced a touching story of a near death experience and titled her feature “Troubled Water.”

**Honorable Mention for Photography**
Brian Tagalog from Andrews University captured photographs that appeared in Envision magazine.

**Best in Class for Videography**
Kendall Rittenour from Southern Adventist University produced a very professional looking project for the Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

**Honorable Mention in Videography**
Vernee Norman from Union College produced a simple yet very entertaining video highlighting the normally boring subject of student advisory.

**Project Awards by Class**

*Corporate Communication*

**Best Constituency or Annual Report Video**
BEST IN CLASS: Southeastern California Conference Constituency Report 2013, Enno Mueller, communication director

**Best Constituency Report (Print) or Best Special Event**
HONORABLE MENTION: Samaritan Center Annual Report 2013, Marcella Morales, communication director

**Best Website**
HONORABLE MENTION: North Pacific Union Conference—GleanerNow.com, Brent Hardinge, project manager
HONORABLE MENTION: Pacific Union College—This Is PUC, Haley Wesley, creative director
BEST IN CLASS: The Haystack.TV, Keith Bowman II, Jeff Tatarchuk and Sam Moreno
**New Media**

**Best App**
BEST IN CLASS: PUC Now Mobile App, Nicholas Hubbard, webmaster

**Best E-Newsletter**
HONORABLE MENTION: GleanerNOW from the North Pacific Union Conference, Steve Vistautnet, editor; Brent Hardinge; digital media coordinator; Desiree Lockwood, project manager

**Best Use of Social Media**
HONORABLE MENTION: Living God’s Mission social media campaign for Washington Conference, Heidi Baumgartner, communication director

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**Print Media**

**Best Newsletter (Print)**
HONORABLE MENTION: Florida Focus, Summer 2013
BEST IN CLASS: Southern Adventist University, Panorama Parent newsletter, Dec. 2013

**Best Magazine**
HONORABLE MENTION: El Centinela
HONORABLE MENTION: For God and Country, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry
HONORABLE MENTION: The Flame, Texas Conference
BEST IN CLASS: North Pacific Union Gleaner

**Best book, Non-fiction, scholarly**
HONORABLE MENTION: Crisis Boot Camp by Celeste Ryan Blyden
BEST IN CLASS: Are You More Spiritual Than a Fifth Grader by Karl & Claire Haffner

**Book Non-Fiction, Narrative/Story Format**
HONORABLE MENTION: Charles Mills, for Out of the Blue
BEST IN CLASS: Kay Rizzo, for Northern Lights

**Best Editorial**

**Best Feature**
HONORABLE MENTION: "Kids, Cats, and Jesus?" Kimberly Luste Maran, assistant editor, Adventist Review
BEST IN CLASS: "Record Keeper," interview with Garrett Caldwell in the North Pacific Union Gleaner

**Best Devotional**
HONORABLE MENTION: "Whole Heart," by Tia Lawrence, Canadian Adventist Messenger

**Best News Article for Event Coverage**
HONORABLE MENTION: "SECC Constituency Press Release," by Enno Mueller, Southeastern California Conference
Best Column or Department
HONORABLE MENTION: "Creation Corner for Kids," Tammie Burak, Canadian Adventist Messenger
BEST IN CLASS: “Dude, Where’s My Ark?” by Seth Pierce, NPUC Gleaner perspective columnist

Best Student Newspaper
HONORABLE MENTION: Southern Accent, Southern Adventist University, Myron Madden, editor
BEST IN CLASS: The Student Movement, Andrews University, Melodie Roschman, editor

Broadcast
Best Radio Show or Podcast
BEST IN CLASS: BibleCast, Brazilian Central Union of South-America Division

Best TV/Internet Show
BEST IN CLASS: The Haystack.TV, 28 Fundamental Beliefs

Best Video Story/Project
HONORABLE MENTION: Southwestern Adventist University Acrofest 2013
BEST IN CLASS: Southwestern Frames, Darcy Force

Marketing/Public Relations
Best Promotional Video
HONORABLE MENTION: Wewoka Woods, Oklahoma Conference summer camp promo video
BEST IN CLASS: The Haystack.TV

Best Brochure or Printed Promotional Package/Kit
HONORABLE MENTION: Andrews University, Parent Financial Guide
BEST IN CLASS: Hope Channel, “Tag Hunter” Oshkosh camporee booth

Best Ad (Print)
HONORABLE MENTION: Southern Adventist University, WSMC Classical 90.5
BEST IN CLASS: Pacific Union College Triathlon ad

Design
Best Book Design
HONORABLE MENTION: A Thoughtful Hour, Gerald Lee Monks and Kristin Hansen-Mellish, Pacific Press Publishing Association
BEST IN CLASS: My Favorite Angel Stories, Gerald Lee Monks and Kristin Hansen-Mellish, Pacific Press Publishing Association

Best Magazine Cover Design
HONORABLE MENTION: Texas Conference, The Flame, Fall/Winter 2013
BEST IN CLASS: North Pacific Union Gleaner, June 2014, "Persecuted"

Best Magazine Design Overall
HONORABLE MENTION: Texas Conference, The Flame, Fall 2014
BEST IN CLASS: Pacific Union College ViewPoint, July 2014

Best Project Design
HONORABLE MENTION: Columbia Union Visitor 2014 Calendar
HONORABLE MENTION: Pacific Union College Triathlon package
BEST IN CLASS: Southern Adventist University Presidential Christmas Card

Best Photograph
HONORABLE MENTION: North Pacific Union Gleaner, "Wish"
BEST IN CLASS: Texas Conference, The Flame, Fall 2014, "Little Girl"

Thank you for joining us in person or online to celebrate 25 years of communication excellence!

Sincerely,

Heidi Baumgartner on behalf of the SAC Team
SAC vice president for communication
Washington Conference communication director

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