



PCA 2026 Awards Ceremony Banquet
Saturday, September 19, 2026
Heritage Hall, UPJ

Introduction

Maryl McGinley, UPJ

Welcome Remarks

Michael Stoneham, Chair of the Humanities, UPJ

Top Papers in the Graduate Writing Competition

The Concept of "Invention" in Philosophical-Rhetoric and its Historical Progression

K. Darius Branche, Duquesne University

Fragments of Memory: A Rhetorical Analysis of Only Yesterday

Ashlee Acosta, East Stroudsburg University

Content Creation Project: Senator John Fetterman

George McFadden, East Stroudsburg University

Top Papers in the PCA Undergraduate Writing Competition

Behind the Mask: Facework and 2004 Film The Phantom of the Opera

Jenalise Muir, Penn State Schuylkill

Framing the Kingdom: Burkean Identification and Jesus' Rhetoric in the Sermon on the Mount

William R. Mills, Penn State Schuylkill

Analysis of Secret Lives of Mormon Wives

Shira Bauman, Duquesne University

Presented by Valerie Lynn Schrader, Penn State Schuylkill

The Julia T. Wood Teacher/Scholar Award – Tom Benson, Penn State University

The Julia T. Wood Teacher/Scholar Award recognizes achievements of a Pennsylvania related teacher/scholar whose outstanding service and contributions are highly visible and influential on students and fellow scholars alike.

Comments by Valerie Lynn Schrader, Penn State Schuylkill and Diane Nicodemus, UPJ

The Carroll Arnold Distinguished Service Award – Valerie Lynn Schrader, Penn State Schuylkill

The Carroll Arnold Distinguished Service Award recognizes contributions of a PCA member to the profession and/or to PCA. The award could be for long and faithful service, outstanding teaching, distinctive service, and/or a single outstanding contribution.

Presented by Kim Flanders, St. Francis University

The Donald Ecroyd Research & Scholarship Award – Jill Burk, Penn State Berks

The Donald Ecroyd Research and Scholarship Award recognizes a PCA member who has a commitment to and a sustained record of research and publication in the field of communication.

Presented by Maryl McGinley, UPJ

The Harvey Kelly Excellence in Teaching Award - Joel Ward, Geneva College

The Harvey Kelly Excellence in Teaching Award recognizes a PCA member who has demonstrated a passion for and a mastery of teaching, both in and out of the classroom. The award could be for innovative methods in the classroom, community-based education, demonstrated impact, lifetime accomplishment, or a single exceptional accomplishment.

Presented by Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University

The Voices of Tomorrow College Communicator of the Year Award – Ryan Felesky, UPJ

The Voices of Tomorrow College Communicator of the Year Award recognizes excellent communicators at the college level. This award is presented to a Pennsylvania college student who excels in curricular and extracurricular communication (including speech or media) work, who uses communication skills in a service capacity, and who demonstrates promise of future leadership through communication.

Presented by Paul Lucas, UPJ

The William Tacey School of the Year Award – Richland High School, Scott Jugan

The William Tacey School of the Year Award honors school speech programs other than college or university programs. Qualifying schools have excellent curricular and extracurricular speech opportunities.

Presented by Maryl McGinley, UPJ

The Jeanne Lutz High School Speaker of the Year Award – Sara Grela, Richland High School

The Jeanne Lutz High School Speaker of the Year Award recognizes excellent communicators and/or role models at the high-school level.

Presented by Scott Jugan, Richland High School

The PCA Speaker of the Year Award – Mia Oterson

The Pennsylvania Communication Association Speaker of the Year Award honors Pennsylvanians who excel at public speaking.

Presented by Maryl McGinley, UPJ
