The Department of Journalism & Communication at Utah State University honored its best and brightest Friday in ceremonies to name its outstanding students of the year, and to award more than $31,000 in scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Departing from the traditional banquet, the department held its awards ceremonies on campus to show off its new home in the $43 million Agricultural Science & Research Building on the east end of the USU Quad.

The JCOM event was held in the new Ag auditorium, with a reception following in the airy, three-story atrium and tours of the new JCOM TV studio and computer labs on the first floor, and faculty offices on the third floor.

“As much as we will miss our old home high atop the Animal Science Building,” said department head Ted Pease, “you have to admit that this place is pretty nice.” The JCOM faculty moved from the Animal Science Building—the oldest unrenovated academic building on campus, which the department occupied for more than 30 years—to USU’s newest building on March 30.

Pease presided as the JCOM faculty celebrated graduation for more than 90 members of the Class of 2012 who will receive diplomas on May 5, and handed out certificates to 37 outstanding graduates, seniors and juniors in agricultural communication and journalism, broadcasting and electronic journalism, journalistic writing, and public relations.

“VIDEO: JCOM Rocks! End of year 2012 by Emily Landeen

The department also named 23 new and continuing JCOM students as scholarship winners for the coming year.

“We have had an extraordinary year,” Pease told students, faculty and family members gathered for the awards, pointing to the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter’s fourth straight regional conference in March, Aggie journalists’ dominance of the regional Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) awards two weeks ago, and the additional of four new faculty since 2010.

John Allen, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, echoed Pease’s statements. “I am very proud of JCOM, and the college is very supportive of this program,” said Allen, a sociologist who started his career as a radio and wire service journalist. “We have a lot of faith in you and your professors.”

2012-2013 JCOM SCHOLARSHIPS

The Deseret Management Corporation Scholarships
The Deseret News Scholarship: Rhett Wilkinson
The Deseret Book Scholarship: Mackenzie Love
The Deseret Digital Media Scholarship: Emily Landeen
The KSL News Scholarship: Brianna Bodily

The Lee C. Frischkneckt Scholarship
Established in honor of National Public Radio pioneer. Mackenzie Hamilton

The Joseph A. Hays Scholarship
Established by a JCOM alumnus and former Chicago Tribune executive. Kinsey Eborn

The Jay W. Glasmann Family Scholarships
Endowed by the family of the former owners of the Ogden Standard-Examiner. Alexandra Evensen Mandy Morgan Lindsay Nemelka Drew Van Dyke

The Glacus and Marie Merrill Scholarship
Established by JCOM alumni in honor of their parents, Northern Utah pioneers in radio broadcasting. Kelton Wells

The Ogden Standard-Examiner Scholarships
Created in support of northern Utah journalism. Alexandra Jeppson Lis Stewart

The Lane M. Palmer Scholarship
Established in honor of a USU alumnus and former farm magazine editor.
Rachel Kenley Fry

The Wilford D. Porter Scholarship
Established in honor of USU’s first journalism professor by his students.
Taylor Decker

The Salt Lake Tribune Scholarships
Created by the state’s largest newspaper in support of journalistic excellence.
D. Whitney Smith
Tavin Stucki

The Josey Barnes Wayman Scholarships
Endowed by an Aggie alumna, the first woman TV host in Utah, for women in broadcasting.
Kelsey Keller Weller

The Leah and Estel Wright Scholarships
Established by JCOM alumnus Lee Roderick in support of JCOM’s best and brightest.
Jenna Black
Betsy Blanchard
Aaron Griffiths
Amanda Harris
Caitlin Moffitt

JCOM OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE YEAR, 2011-2012

2012 JCOM Student of the Year: Katherine Rouse DuHadway

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM

2012 Agricultural Communication & Journalism Student of the Year: Rachel Kenley Fry

Outstanding 2012 Agricultural Communication & Journalism Graduates
Kennedy Speirs
Morgan Blackhurst

BROADCAST/ELECTRONIC JOURNALISM

2012 Broadcast Journalism Student of the Year: Jessica Black

Outstanding 2012 Broadcast Journalism Graduates
Britta Anderson

PRINT JOURNALISM/ JOURNALISTIC WRITING

2012 Print Journalism Student of the Year: Katherine Rouse DuHadway

Outstanding 2012 Print Journalism Graduates
Megan Allen
Catherine Meidell Bennett
Cassidee J. Cline

Outstanding 2012 Print Journalism Seniors
Alexandra Evensen
Rhett Wilkinson

Outstanding 2012 Print Journalism Juniors
Alexandra Jeppson
Mandy Morgan
D. Whitney Smith

PUBLIC RELATIONS

2012 Public Relations Student of the Year: Jacqueline Berryhill

Outstanding 2012 Public Relations Graduates
Zachary Bosch
Stephanie Lewis
Erika Rasmussen
Oelia Rivera
Rose Wiarda

Outstanding 2012 Public Relations Seniors
Rebecca Holliday
Kandace Reader
Kara Rindlisbacher
Taylor Spencer

Outstanding 2012 Public Relations Juniors
Jaron Dunford
Amanda Harris
Mackenzie Love
Rachael Wabel

**JCOM Best New Talent, 2012**
Betsy Blanchard
Tmera Bradley
Mackenzie Hamilton
Drew Van Dyke