Summers Award Selection Process

The F. William Summers Award is given annually to an outstanding master's or specialist student who graduated during the past academic year. The award is named in honor of F. William Summers, a graduate of Florida State University, who had a distinguished career in the field of library and information studies. He served as President of the American Library Association, the Director of the State Library of Florida, Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University, Director of the Doctoral Program in the College, and Dean of the library school at the University of South Carolina.

The award is intended to honor the academic accomplishments and service of a graduate of the master's or specialist programs, who graduated during the past academic year. Selection criteria include academic achievement, contributions to courses while a graduate student, and contributions to the college, university, the profession, and/or the community. The award is presented at the college's annual convocation ceremony (Homecoming weekend). The winner receives an engraved plaque. In addition, the recipient's name is added to the list of Summers Award winners on display in the college's administrative suite.

1. Immediately after the final graduation list for summer is posted, the college's database administrator will provide the academic dean with a combined list of the students who graduated during the previous three semesters (fall, spring, and summer) AND who finished in the top 15% according to GPA.

2. The academic dean will send a letter (sample letter attached) to the eligible students, inviting them to submit an essay in order to be considered for the Summers Award. The letter will stipulate that essays should be no more than three pages in length, double-spaced, with 12-point font. The essays should address the following: the student's unique contribution to courses, contributions to the college and/or university outside of coursework, contributions to the profession, and contribution to the student's local community. Students are also encouraged to submit any supporting documentation they deem appropriate, such as reference letters from supervisors, URL's to websites they have created, etc. Essays should be returned to the academic dean by September 15th. The academic dean will then forward the received essays to the coordinator of the MS/SP Team.

3. A subteam consisting of three members of the MS/SP Team will review the essays and rank them.

4. The top three essays will be forwarded to the academic dean's office for distribution to the faculty, who will be asked to rank the candidates (with 1 being their top choice).

5. The academic dean's office will tabulate the votes of the faculty and will notify the winner, all of the other students who submitted essays, and the Coordinator of the Master's and Specialist Team. The winner will be invited to attend the Convocation ceremony, where the award will be presented.

Sample Letter

Dear -----,

Because of your academic achievement while a graduate student in the College of Information, you are eligible to submit materials so that you can be considered for the F. William Summers Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

The F. William Summers Award is given annually to an outstanding master's or specialist student who graduated during the past academic year. The award is named in honor of F. William Summers, a graduate of Florida State University, who had a distinguished career in the field of library and information studies. He served as President of the American Library Association, the Director of the State Library of Florida, Dean of the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University, Director of the Doctoral Program in the College, and Dean of the library school at the University of South Carolina.

Students who graduate in the top 15% of graduates are eligible to be considered for the award. Other criteria include exceptional contributions to individual courses, the college, the university, the library and information studies profession, and/or the community (by means of some activity related to library and information studies) during the time you sought your degree. In order to be considered for the award, you should submit an essay of no more than three double-spaced typed pages (12-point font), explaining your contributions in one or more of these areas. In addition, you are encouraged to submit any supporting documentation, such as letters from supervisors, URL's to websites you have created, other materials you have created, etc.

Please email or mail your essay and supporting documentation to me so that I will receive it by September 15th. The winner will be selected and all who submitted essays will be notified sometime during the first week in October. The award will be presented at the College's annual Convocation Ceremony, which will be held on ----. The winner receives an engraved plaque. In addition, the recipient's name is added to the list of Summers Award winners on display in the College's administrative suite.

Congratulations on your academic achievement and on being eligible for the F. William Summers Outstanding Graduate Student Award. I look forward to receiving your materials.

Sincerely,
Academic Dean