

# Students showcase their work



accumulating awards: Film students Jil Szewski, Michael Harthen and Matt Dressel hold up the certificates they received from this year's Film and Video Showcase in Lake Superior Hall on Friday night. The group won first place in the 100-200 level category for their film "Holy Water".

GVSU students receive cash prizes in six categories for their films

BY LESLIE PERALES  
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The Grand Valley State University communications department welcomed a packed crowd on Friday for its Winter Film and Video Student Showcase.

Affiliate professor Joe McCargar, who helped organize the event, said it was a great way for film students of GVSU to show off their work to others. The event allowed them to reach a broader audience, he added.

River Branch, a visiting professor who also organized the event, said it was a good starting point for students.

A \$300 cash prize was given to winners in six categories.

The award for Best 100-200 Class Level went to senior Matthew Dressel, junior Michael Harthen and junior Jillian Szewski for their film "Holy Water." The award for Best 300 Class Level went to senior Andy Fortenbacher and Todd Campbell for their film "Delirium." The award for Best 400 Class Level went to junior Scott Sheppard for "The Chipping."

The Audience Choice Award went to senior Steve

Burns for his film "Professor Paul Summers and the Killer Zombie." Burns also won the award for Best in Show.

The Best Audio Award — a new category this year — went to Fortenbacher and Campbell for "Delirium."

Szewski said her film's win in the showcase was surprising, and it was the most fun she's ever had working on a production at GVSU.

"I definitely worked hard to do this and it's a great opportunity to be in the student showcase and as a perk, we won," Szewski said.

Senior Aimee Hampton, a member of the student judging panel, said it was difficult to narrow down

selections for the showcase and choose winners.

Twenty films were shown at the event out of about 50 that were entered. The majority of the films entered were from 100 and 200 level classes.

Katie Dehn, a senior on the Student Showcase Committee, said her favorite part was meeting new students, watching their films and seeing that the quality of work continues to grow. The most difficult part

was setting a standard for what makes a good student film, she added.

"The great thing about it is I've met so many students in doing this that I didn't know at all, and now I've seen their work and I've given some people feedback on how to improve it — spreading my knowledge to the younger generation," Dehn said.

Senior Paul Damore entered a short documentary titled "Mr.

Damore goes to Lansing." The film was about raising awareness for environmental issues dealing with the Dow Chemical Company. Damore's documentary will also be shown at the 2006 Muskegon

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SENIOR ON THE STUDENT SHOWCASE COMMITTEE

Film Festival in February.

The showcase featured entries from genres of drama, thriller, comedy and animation.

"Grand Valley film is up-and-coming, and it's something to watch out for," Dehn said. "You're probably going to be in Hollywood someday and you're going to see a bunch of Grand Valley alums, because we definitely are getting educated well here."