

Pace Celebrates Student Creativity at Fifth Annual Blue & Golden Globe Awards



Students of Pace University gather together for a photo located in the Willcox Multipurpose Room on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 by Lou A. Guarneri

By: Charlotte LoCicero | April 30, 2025

PLEASANTVILLE, N.Y. — Pace University rolled out the red carpet on Tuesday, April 29, for the fifth annual [Blue & Golden Globe Awards](#), hosted in the Willcox Multipurpose Room (MPR). The event, organized by [Pace Media Zone \(PMZ\)](#) in collaboration with the [Media Communication Visual Arts \(MCVA\) department](#), brought together students, faculty, and staff to honor some of the year's most outstanding work in film, journalism, and public relations.

Guests were welcomed at 5:00 p.m. with a festive atmosphere complete with Latin American and Italian cuisine, refreshing beverages, and a lively music set by Pace Audio World ([WPAW](#)), Pace's student-run radio station. The ceremony officially kicked off at 6 p.m.



Students of WPAW, Pace University, gather together for a photo located in the Willcox Multipurpose Room on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 by Lou A. Guarneri

Weeks before the event, students could nominate themselves or their peers for award consideration through an open submission form. A panel was made final for the selection of department administrators.

“There's a form that goes out in the weeks leading up to the event, where people can submit themselves, nominate themselves, or somebody else, and then they are chosen. The winners are chosen among the department administrators,” states Payton Cocchia. “Then everybody shows up to see who wins.”

Payton Cocchia, one of the event organizers, shared their connection to the Blue & Golden Globe Awards, noting that they’ve been involved since its early days. Originally part of a student-run public relations agency called *Entrance One*, they helped transform it into what is now Pace Media Zone (PMZ), Pace University’s first official pop culture club.

“It started off as a student-run public relations agency on campus called Entrance One, which no longer exists. As a sophomore, I redeveloped it into Pace University's first official pop culture club,” said Payton.

The Blue & Golden Globe Awards celebrated a wide range of student work across multiple media disciplines, highlighting the exceptional talent within the MCVA department. From influential short films to compelling journalism and creative public relations campaigns, the event honored projects showcasing skill and innovation.

This year's winners earned top honors across the following categories:

Film:

- Best Picture Under Five: Casen Dow, Giuliana Souss, Patricia Olszewski, and Angie Bev. *"Stairs"*
- Best Picture Under Ten: N Spano, Alexis Riviello, Brie Luna, and Ryan Gando, *"Compensation"*
- Best Picture Over Ten: Robert Gehman, Jaeya Anderson, Carolina Caputo Nogueira, William Lacey, and Alex Ortiz, *"The Last Place We Met"*
- Best Directing Scene: Kat Brennan, *"2:22 pm"*

Journalism:

- Best News Report: Chloe Stanberry-Rosseter and Gianna Mojica, *"From Dorm to Dormant: North Hall Keeps an Uncertain Fate"*
- Best Feature Story: Evan Mahanna and Megan Bourque, *"Help Me! From What? Self-Help!"*
- Best Review: Danielle Lugashi, *"Broadway's The Great Gatsby" - Review*
- Best Blog Post: Dylan Brown, *"May 8-14, 2023: The Greatest Week of Pace Athletics' History"*
- Best Audio Project: Nicholas Diaz and Jaden Kealey, *"The Pulse of Pace: Setters Uncovered"* - Interview with Pace Basketball Player Jaden Kealey

Public Relations:

- Best Print Collateral: Donvann Smit - *"Scythe"* Poster
- Best Digital Collateral: Nicholas Diaz, *"Springfest Concert, 2025 Marketing Materials"*
- Best Social Media Video: Zachary Poloncarz, Jaoseline Vasquez, Declan Landers, and Nick Pagan *"Hot Chocolate,"* Social Media Promo

Many of this year's winners submitted projects created as part of their coursework. Donvann Smit, a Digital Cinema and Filmmaking major, won *Best Print Collateral* for a promotional piece developed for their capstone project, a directing film set to premiere on May 12.

“I presented my poster for my capstone project, my directing film, which will most likely be coming out May 12th,” stated Donvann. “In terms of that project and the poster, my project is very much a medieval western. I wanted to go with Western poster tropes, tie-in, and those medieval themes.”

Zachary Poloncarz, the marketing manager for the on-campus business Pace Perk, created the winning *Best Social Media Video* piece as a promotional video for a new hot chocolate item. Launched during a stretch of freezing temperatures. The campaign successfully boosted sales, resulting in around 30 purchases within the first week of its release.

“I am the marketing manager at Pace Perk Cafe for the on-campus business, and it was a promo for our hot chocolate because it was really, really cold. It was like negative temperatures for like weeks straight here,” stated Zachary. “Within a week of selling it, we got about 30 hot chocolate purchases.”

The night ended with a raffle featuring prizes perfect for content creators, including a \$50 B&H gift card, a wireless mic, and a ring light kit. With a “must-be-present-to-win” rule, the energy stayed high through the final drawing.

The Blue & Golden Globe Awards remain a standout event in Pace’s academic year, blending community, creativity, and celebration.