

The Ben Auburn Award in Cultural Criticism

The Ben Auburn Award in Cultural Criticism seeks to stimulate the production and recognition of works of cultural criticism by students at The University of Akron through an annual awards competition and symposium administered by the Williams Honors College, with the first prize of \$500. In addition, there will be a second category “Communication in the Time of Quarantine,” recognizing the unique circumstances that surround our society in the Spring of 2020.

The 2020 Symposium will be held virtually, on **Friday, April 24, 2020**, and awards will be made provided sufficient entries are received in each category.

Cultural criticism does not vilify our society. Rather, as culture adapts and changes, criticism identifies and assesses trends in the arts, aesthetics, and ideas of a human society. The critique is limited neither to high culture nor to popular movements, it can be applied across all human artistic and intellectual achievements. Moreover, cultural criticism can take many forms and appear in a variety of media. A series of related reviews, an extended essay or article, a monograph, or a chapter in a book are some written forms; video, audio, or filmed programs may constitute cultural criticism, as may exhibitions or performances, and works of imaginative textual (poems, fiction), pictorial, sculptural, and performance art designed primarily to reflect other works of the imagination.

Our second category, “Communication in the Time of Quarantine,” seeks out stories, poems, songs, and essays about how we communicate in this time of quarantine, the first wide-spread quarantine since nearly universal electronic and Internet platforms: what works, what doesn’t, what’s heart-breaking, what’s uplifting.

The Ben Auburn Award, established by Mark, Sandy, and David Auburn in memory of their son and brother Ben, seeks to expand the boundaries of cultural criticism, the capacity of our students to participate in its creation, and the opportunities to grapple with ideas expressed in any form. It will recognize thoughtful analysis and commentary, reflective and careful judgment, and sustained acquisition of knowledge and taste. It will reward original thinking and expression. It will encourage intellectual risk-taking subjected to public assessment.

For more information please contact Prof. D. Dane Quinn, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research, Williams Honors College, at quinn@uakron.edu, or at 330-972-6302. Additional details are also available at:

<https://www.uakron.edu/honors/students/ben-auburn-award.dot>

Submission

The Ben Auburn Award competition is open to **all undergraduate students** at The University of Akron. Up to five participants will be invited to take part in the virtual public symposium on April 24, 2020. **The first prize for the Ben Auburn Award is \$500.**

Works must be submitted by

**Monday, April 20, 2020
5:00 p.m.**

to receive full consideration by the Awards Committee. The production and the accompanying form should be submitted by email to Peggy Walchalk, at peggy1@uakron.edu.



Williams Honors College
 The University of Akron
 Akron, OH 44325-1803



The 2020 Ben Auburn Award in Cultural Criticism

Productions and submission form should be submitted to Peggy Walchalk at peggy1@uakron.edu.

Submission Deadline: Friday, April 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Award Symposium: Friday, April 24, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Submission Form (Please Print)

Name:	Student ID:
Email (@zips.uakron.edu):	Phone:
Title of Submission:	
Major:	Student Status:
Format of Presentation:	

Please include a brief (maximum 200 words) description of your submission

Are you available to present virtually on Friday, April 24, 2020?	Yes	No (disqualifies entry)
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