

EDNA AND VERN HEISE PRIZE FOR COMMUNICATION

Purpose of the Prize

The prize (originally named the Edna Ferris Heise Award of Excellence in Communication) was established in 2007 to honour the life and work of Edna Ferris Heise (1922-2006) in memory of her outstanding contribution to preaching, writing, and speaking. Edna Ferris Heise was a graduate of the Teachers Course at Avondale College (1942) and the Bible Worker's Course (1944). Her lifetime of ministry and service included experience as a Conference departmental director's personal assistant and as a primary teacher. Her most impressive contributions, however, were in decades of preaching, speaking, and writing, in the context of the pastoral ministry which she shared with her minister husband, Vern. Edna was a highly effective communicator. Hundreds of poems, articles, news stories, news releases, speaking assignments, and sermons, produced and delivered in more than 60 years of active ministry, provide an enduring testimony to her passion for the ministry of gospel communication. As well, she was a keen supporter of women serving in ministry at every level of church activity. In August 2014, with the passing of Vern, the prize was renamed the Edna and Vern Heise Prize in honour of their lifelong commitment to Women in Ministry and Christian communication.

Selection Criteria

Awarded to a female theology student enrolled in either the third or fourth year of the Bachelor of Ministry and Theology or the second year of the Graduate Diploma in Ministry and Theology who demonstrates excellent communication skills judged on the basis of:

1. Excellence in written communication; and/or
2. Excellence in verbal communication; and
3. Excellence in interpersonal skills; and
4. Excellence in service activities.

Administration of Prize

1. Each year, the Prizes Coordinator will confer with Avondale's business office to ascertain the balance of the reserve and share the ledger with Dr Lyell Heise. This fund must not fall below \$23,000 to ensure interest accrued over a twelve-month period delivers \$1,000 to fund the prize.
2. Any changes to the criteria will be forwarded by the Prizes Coordinator to the Scholarships and Prizes Committee, and once approved, will be uploaded to the Avondale website.
3. Nominations for the prize shall be made by the Head of School on the recommendation of lecturers in the Avondale Seminary who will make a list of all persons who meet the selection criteria, together with a recommendation about which one of those persons, in their view, meets the selection criteria overall to a greater extent than others.
4. The name will be presented to the Learning and Teaching Committee for final approval.
5. The awardees' name will be recorded on a perpetual shield that hangs in the library.

Sponsorship

The prize is funded by accrued interest from the Edna and Vern Heise Memorial Trust Fund, set up by the Heise family and the Women in Ministry Trust. The prize shall be provided by way of a pre-paid gift card to the value of \$1000.

Presentation of Prize

The prize will be presented during the year-end graduation ceremony. Prize recipients who are not graduating in the current year will receive their prize at the *Welcome to Avondale* ceremony at the commencement of the next academic year.

Citation

The EDNA AND VERN HEISE PRIZE FOR COMMUNICATION
is awarded
to a female theology student enrolled in either the third or fourth year of the Bachelor of Ministry and Theology
or the second year of the concurrent Graduate Diploma in and Theology,
who demonstrates excellent communication skills judged on the basis of:

- Excellence in written communication; and/or
- Excellence in verbal communication; and
- Excellence in interpersonal skills; and

- Excellence in service activities

This prize has been established to honour the life and work of Edna (died 2006) and Vern (died 2014) Heise in memory of their outstanding support of women in ministry and Christian communication through preaching, writing and speaking.

The prize has been sponsored by Edna and Vern Heise's family and the Women in Ministry Trust and is awarded to
[name of recipient]