Ruth Pease Sansalone Award (for improvement in academic work over course of studies at Rutgers and involvement in service to Rutgers and the community)

Ruth Pease Sansalone (1913-1955) was born in Bath, Maine, but grew up in Salem County, New Jersey, where she went to work for New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. She helped provide Bell customers service in an era when calls were still placed by operators, and customers shared “party lines.” Her prompt attention to background noise she heard on an open line saved the lives of children who had been playing with matches, and NJ Bell presented her with an Outstanding Service Award. After she married Joseph Sansalone in the 1940s, she helped with her husband’s business in Cumberland County, and remained an insatiable reader of American literature. She had a special fondness for works on southern Jersey.

This award will go to students who have improved their academic work the most over their (four) years in college, and who have demonstrated community commitment, most often through public history internships in service to the university, the community of the State of New Jersey.