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# Distinguished Faculty Awards

Instituted in 2007, the College of Science and Technology's Distinguished Faculty Awards recognize tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty who are outstanding teachers, mentors and researchers. Nominated by their peers and students, these professors have demonstrated tremendous dedication to their work and are instrumental to the college's goal of producing innovative research and well-educated science and technology graduates. Each award carries a \$5,000 or \$10,000 prize.

## **The Italia-Eire Foundation Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award**

*Francis Spano, Professor, Department of Chemistry*

Spano, who came to Temple in 1990, was named Honors College Teacher of the Year in 2008 for his general chemistry course. His research interests include optical excitations in conjugated oligomer and polymer aggregates and films and molecular orientation and quantum state control. He also serves as faculty advisor for Temple's American Chemical Society undergraduate student chapter.

*“Professor Spano embodies the traits that characterize the CST teaching award, impeccable knowledge of science, a style that fully captures and engages student attention and a gentle but firm hand guiding the student in the learning effort. He is effective, popular and scholarly.”*

## **The Steven Petchon Distinguished Excellence in Teaching Award**

*Rolf Lakaemper, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer & Information Sciences*

Lakaemper joined Temple University in 2003. His main research areas are robot navigation, computer vision, image and video databases, and computer graphics. He has worked closely with master and Ph.D. students, served on dissertation committees and conducted more than 40 independent studies with undergraduate and graduate students, many resulting in award-winning projects.

*“His lectures were always exceptionally well prepared and presented, with much opportunity for class participation and feedback. It was clear that he was deeply concerned with his students' abilities to learn*

*the material. More importantly, in watching him interact with students outside of class, in his lab and elsewhere, it was obvious from the beginning that he loves working with students, and that they in turn have great admiration for, and appreciation of his methods."*

### **The William Caldwell Memorial Distinguished Mentoring Award**

*Evelyn Vleck, Assistant Professor (Teaching/Instructional), Department of Biology*

Vleck, who re-joined Temple University in 2003, coordinates all labs for the Human Biology course for non-majors. In 2009, she became departmental advisor for undergraduate biology majors. She also co-developed the GenEd course "DNA: Friend or Foe?" that launched in 2009.

*"Evelyn clearly treats each and every student with respect and takes their concerns seriously. She also takes her role as advisor seriously, which means that if she has to deny a student what s/he is seeking..., she does... but always nicely and compassionately. Evelyn works with each student to find some sort of solution, but she works within the stated, allowable parameters so that everything is fair."*

### **The Dean's Distinguished Excellence in Mentoring Award**

*Rose McGinnis, Director, Student Professional Development & Undergraduate Research Program (URP)*

McGinnis joined Temple University in 2004. She facilitates students obtaining internships and full-time employment; fosters relationships with science and technology industries; and manages the college's URP program. She also teaches courses on system design, database structure and other topics in the Department of Computer & Information Sciences.

*"Rose has looked over my résumé countless times, given priceless insight to the professional world, and I have shared what I've learned from her to other members of the student body. She is always available, always willing to help find students careers or research opportunities, and always ready to give you an honest assessment about what to expect after college. She is kind, loyal, and most importantly, dedicated to the students who need her professional expertise."*

### **The Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award**

*Marilena Downing, Instructor, Department of Mathematics*

Downing, who earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Temple, began teaching at the university in 2001. She earned the TA Graduate Teaching Award in 2005. She designed the practice tests and tutorials for the math placement test, developed a more demanding Math 1021 course and coordinates record keeping of the College Algebra through Calculus III sequence of courses.

*“Downing is extremely dedicated to her subject and to her students. She is one of the best professors I have ever had. Downing has the skills to explain calculus in a simple and effective manner. She is able to break down complicated concepts in a way that everyone in the class can understand. She is very sensitive to the needs of her students. I never met another professor that was as committed as Downing is to her students excelling.”*

### **The Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award**

*Steven Fleming, Professor (Teaching/Instructional), Department of Chemistry*

Fleming came to Temple University in 2008. He has set a high standard in the lecture component for the undergraduate organic chemistry program and has been instrumental in refining the laboratory component as well. He serves as the science liaison for the General Education committee and teaches a course in collaboration with the Teaching & Learning Center to prepare graduate students for teaching in science.

*“Dr. Fleming spends his time creating learning supplements to help students understand organic chemistry. His class was about more than just exams and a final grade. It was about the determination and self-confidence we needed to discover in order to continue to learn. He taught his students how to learn, study, and examine their own work.”*

### **The Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award**

*Jonathan Nyquist, Chair and Professor, Department of Earth & Environmental Science*

Nyquist joined Temple University in 1997 and became chair of the Department of Earth & Environmental Science in 2011. He earned Temple's Provost Award for Innovative Teaching in General Education in 2009. His recent research emphasizes electrical methods for monitoring groundwater-surface water exchange in lakes and in the hyporheic zone beneath streams.

*“Jon is already an excellent teacher, and he is invested in becoming an even better one. He is constantly reflecting on his own practice: puzzling about why specific practices work with some students and not others, thinking about how to communicate effectively with students, thinking about how to re-jigger assignments to challenge talented students, and so forth. It is very inspiring work, and I have learned a lot from talking with him.”*

### **The Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award**

*John Schiller, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics*

Schiller began teaching at Temple University in 1959 and joined the math department fulltime in 1966. He served as chair of the Department of Mathematics from 1998 to 2004 and is currently associate chair. His teaching goals are to “bring excitement for mathematics to the classroom, be passionate about the subject, and let students see your love of mathematics.”

*“Dr. Schiller’s teaching methods were extremely effective. He thoroughly explained topics, did several detailed examples and constantly asked for feedback from the class. Although he covered a great deal of material in his courses, he did so in a timely and efficient manner. His classes were structured and organized ‘to a T.’ Dr. Schiller established a perfect environment in the classroom, an experience that was challenging yet comfortable.”*

### **The Dean’s Distinguished Award for Excellence in Research**

*Daniel Szyld, Professor, Department of Mathematics*

Szyld came to Temple University in 1990. His research areas include sparse matrix techniques; conjugate gradient type methods; and applications to Markov chains and Markov processes. Since 2006, he has had 25 papers published or in press. He has been cited more than 500 times by 369 authors, a substantial achievement in mathematics. He recently received a NSF grant for work in eigenvalues problems, Krylov subspace methods and subspace recycling.

*“Daniel is a distinguished mathematician, recognized as an international leader in important, widely applicable areas of mathematical research. His record over the last four years has been particularly impressive.”*

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# Graduate Student Awards and Scholarships

## **Computer & Information Sciences Department Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant**

*Kosta Ristovski, Computer &  
Information Sciences*

## **Der-Min Fan Chemistry Graduate Student Scholarship Fund**

Established in 2007 by Der-Min Fan,  
CST '76 to support graduate summer  
research in the Department of  
Chemistry.

*Matthew Sender, Chemistry*

## **Distinguished Graduate Student Research Award**

Awarded to a CST graduate student  
who demonstrates excellence in  
research.

*Sushma Savarala, Chemistry  
Sheng Xiong, Math*

## **Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Award**

Awarded to a CST graduate student  
who demonstrates excellence in  
teaching.

*Svitlana Kulyk, Chemistry*

*Jonathan Lynch, Physics*

*Avirup Sil, Computer &  
Information Sciences*

*John Tatarowicz, Physics*

## **Peter Havas Humanitarian Scholarship for Outstanding Physics Graduate Students**

Established in 2005 by Angelo  
Armenti, CST '70, and family and  
former students of Peter Havas to  
provide scholarships for outstanding  
physics graduate students who have  
demonstrated academic achievement  
and financial need.

*Jonathan Lynch, Physics*

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# Undergraduate Student Awards and Scholarships

## **Abraham and Ruth Clearfield Scholarship**

Established in 2005 by Abraham, CST '48, '51, and Ruth Clearfield to provide scholarships for full-time undergraduate students majoring in chemistry or another physical science, who have financial need and excellent academic performance, with preference given to graduates of South Philadelphia High School.

*Megan Jennings, Chemistry with teaching*

## **Albert B. Brown Chemistry Scholarship Fund**

Established in 2010 by Albert B. Brown, CST '64 to provide scholarships for undergraduate students majoring in chemistry who demonstrate high academic achievement and financial need with strong preference given to United States Citizens and Permanent Resident students who plan to pursue industrial chemistry as a profession.

*Carrie Carson, Chemistry*

## **Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) Award for Academic Achievement**

Awarded to a student in the Alliance for Minority Participation program who has demonstrated excellence in research.

*Alexander Gonzalez, Math*

## **Andrea Broad Scholarship in Biological Sciences**

Established by William E. S. Browning in 2000 in honor of Andrea Broad, CLA '73, LAW '79, to provide for an annual award to an outstanding undergraduate majoring in biological sciences.

*Jiali He, Biology*

*John Mikitsh, Biochemistry*

## **Computer and Information Sciences Student Leadership Award**

Awarded to an undergraduate who has made a significant leadership contribution to the Computer and Information Sciences ACM organization and to the CIS department.

*Matt Borowiec, Information Science and Technology*

**Dr. Lorraine H. Kligman  
Endowment Fund**

Established in 1998 by Lorraine Kligman, CST '66, CLA '74 to provide scholarships for non-traditional sophomore biology students who have demonstrated academic achievement, with preference given to students who are single parents.

*Ashley Devoy, Biology*

**Florence R. Berg Scholarship**

Established in 2008 by Florence R. Berg, CST '49 to provide scholarships for students enrolled in the College of Science and Technology who are either conducting summer research or have financial need.

*Jae Hyeon Lee, Physics*

**Hazel M. Tomlinson, PhD  
Memorial Scholarship**

Established in 1995 by the estate of Hazel M. Tomlinson, CST '26, '28, a longtime member of the Department of Chemistry faculty, to provide scholarships for undergraduate chemistry students who have demonstrated academic achievement and financial need.

*Michael Cleaveland, Chemistry*  
*Mateusz Dobrowolski, Biochemistry*  
*Vasile Donos, Chemistry*  
*Nicole Haloupek, Biochemistry*  
*Jin Leung, Chemistry*  
*John Mikitsh, Biochemistry*  
*Chigoziem Oguh, Chemistry*  
*Akash Patel, Biochemistry*  
*Joseph Trout, Chemistry*  
*Haibin Zhu, Biochemistry*

**Henry A. Sloviter Student  
Research Award in Chemistry**

Established in 1996 by Henry A. Sloviter, CST '35, '36 to provide an award for an outstanding sophomore or junior chemistry major to support and encourage excellence in laboratory research.

*Jacqueline Mejia, Chemistry*

**J. A. Poole Award for  
Exceptional Department Service  
by an Undergraduate**

Established in memory of John A. Poole, distinguished professor of chemistry from 1964 to 1999, this prize is awarded to an undergraduate student who has made exceptional service contributions to his or her department.

*Khristina Pavlenko, Biology*

**John T. Petrick Physics  
Scholarship Award**

Established in 2006 by Carol Petrick, in memory of her husband, to recognize an outstanding physics student (junior year or higher) that is involved in research and development in the science field.

*Steven Consevage, Physics*

**Mark Berger Prize**

Established in 1990 by Michael R. Berman, CST '66, in memory of his classmate Mark Berger, to provide scholarships to biology students who have demonstrated academic achievement and financial need.

*Olivia Min, Biology*

**Morna Brennen Memorial  
Scholarship Fund**

Established in 2008 by Kenneth R. Brennen, Ph.D., CST '62, '66 in memory of his daughter to provide scholarships for students enrolled in the College of Science and Technology who plan to pursue a degree in math and/or science teaching certification through TUtch or another program.

*Amy Gutekunst, Chemistry with teaching*

**Most Promising Mathematics  
Major Award**

Established in 1995 by Orin Chein, faculty member in the Department of Mathematics, the award is presented to an outstanding sophomore or junior math major who has completed the Basic Mathematical Concepts course (Math 2196) and displays the most promise for successful future work in mathematics. The award recipient is determined by the Department of Mathematics.

*Ian Harding, Math*

**Natan Luehrmann-Cowen  
Award Fund**

Established in 2010 to provide an award to an outstanding junior or senior in the College of Science and Technology who demonstrates academic excellence, with preference for students who have demonstrated achievement in one or more of the following: chess, bridge or playing a musical instrument.

*Ananthi Rajamoorthi, Biochemistry*

**Paul and Beatrice Zackon  
Physics Term Scholarship**

Established in 2010 by Richard Zackon, in honor of his parents Paul, DEN '43, and Beatrice Zackon, to provide a term scholarship to an outstanding undergraduate physics student who has demonstrated academic achievement and financial need.

*Eric Hunter, Physics*

*Keith Rycek, Physics*

**Seda Tarzian Endowed  
Scholarship**

Established in 2006 by Seda Tarzian, CST '48 to provide scholarships for academically talented students majoring in the sciences, with preference given to those who have experienced socioeconomic or educational disadvantages.

*Lisa Gochee, Information Science  
and Technology*

**Shirley and Bernard Brown  
Scholarship in Chemistry**

Established in 1995 by Shirley, CST '47, and Bernard Brown, CST '45 to provide scholarships to junior or senior chemistry students who have demonstrated academic achievement.

*Cynthia Ly, Biology*

*Angela Snow, Chemistry*

### **The Dean's Scholarship**

Established in 2007 by the Dean of the College of Science and Technology, the scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding undergraduate students.

*Zachary Ankuda, Computer Science*

*Ashia Bibi, Biology*

*Petra Brayo, Neuroscience-Cellular & Molecular*

*Cheryl Doughty, Biology*

*Mateusz Dobrowski, Biochemistry*

*Tessa King, Geology*

*Feisi Liang, Neuroscience-Cellular & Molecular*

*Levi Mulladzhyanov, Biology*

### **Undergraduate Research Symposium Awards**

Established in 2010 to acknowledge the best posters and best oral presentations of undergraduate students who participated in the research symposium as part of the Undergraduate Research Program. Awards this year were sponsored by Joseph Allegra, CST '70.

*Petra Brayo, Neuroscience-Cellular & Molecular*

*Khristina Pavlenko, Biology*

*Uduak Udoeyo, Biology*