



**BROWN**  
Sheridan Center for  
Teaching and Learning

# University Awards

## A Celebration of Teaching

*April 29, 2019, Pembroke Hall*

### **Welcome**

Mary Wright, Director of the Sheridan Center for  
Teaching and Learning

### **Remarks and Awards**

Provost Richard M. Locke

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Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning

### **Writing Across the Curriculum Seminar**

Faculty members in the Sheridan Writing Across the Curriculum Seminar demonstrate a commitment to integrating writing in their courses as a tool to improve student learning.

**ROBERT K. CAMPBELL**

*Adjunct Associate Professor of Molecular  
Pharmacology, Physiology and  
Biotechnology*  
and

**BROOKE SPENCER**  
*ScB '19, Biology*

**ELENA FESTA**

*Lecturer in Cognitive, Linguistic, and  
Psychological Sciences*

**SHARON SWARTZ**

*Professor of Biology, Professor of  
Engineering*  
and

**JOHN CAPANO**  
*Graduate Student, Ecology and  
Evolutionary Biology*

**JESSICA PLAVICKI**

*Assistant Professor of Pathology and  
Laboratory Medicine*

**CARRIE SPEARIN**

*Lecturer in Sociology*

### **Junior Faculty Teaching Fellows**

The Sheridan Junior Faculty Teaching Fellows Program recognizes junior faculty who demonstrate a commitment to engaging with new teaching ideas and improving student learning.

**LISA BIGGS**

*Assistant Professor of Africana Studies*

**ELENA FESTA**

*Lecturer in Cognitive, Linguistic, and  
Psychological Sciences*

**AMANDA M. JAMIESON**

*Assistant Professor of Molecular  
Microbiology and Immunology*

**KEMP PLUMB**

*Assistant Professor of Physics*

**LULEI SU**

*Lecturer in East Asian Studies*

**JAMES TOMPKIN**

*Assistant Professor of Computer Science*

## **Problem-Solving Course Design Institute**

Faculty members in the Problem-Solving Course Design Institute demonstrate a commitment to designing transparent assignments that promote problem-solving skills.

JOSÉ CONDE ALONSO

*Tamarkin Assistant Professor of Mathematics*

DAVID LINDSTROM

*Professor of Sociology*

MARIA NASTASESCU

*Tamarkin Assistant Professor of Mathematics*

SHARON SWARTZ

*Professor of Biology, Professor of Engineering*

JAMES VALLES

*Professor of Physics*

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Dean of the Faculty

## **Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards**

The Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards recognize Brown faculty members for sustained and continued excellence in undergraduate teaching.

### **Philip J. Bray Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Physical Sciences**

JAMES VALLES

*Professor of Physics*

Jim has been a member of the Brown faculty since 1992 and has taught courses ranging from introductory to advanced courses for concentrators and non-concentrators. The evaluation of his teaching by his students has been uniformly stellar across the entire range of courses he has taught. He is remarkable for his great teaching ability as well as his commitment to inclusive teaching practices and his devotion to his students.

### **William G. McLoughlin Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences**

ROSE McDERMOTT

*David and Mariana Fisher University*

*Professor of International Relations*

Beyond being a wonderful, engaging, and compassionate professor, Rose is dedicated to watching her students learn. She has demonstrated a genuine desire to see her students succeed in and out of the classroom. She goes above and beyond what is expected of a professor to make her students feel seen, heard, and empowered.

### **Elizabeth LeDuc Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Life Sciences**

DIANA HORRIGAN

*Lecturer in Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biotechnology*

Since joining the MPPB department in 2011, Diana has made huge improvements to our course offerings, and she is an incredibly popular, effective teacher who is indispensable to the department. Her creativity and dedication add to her competence and clear lecture style to make her an incredibly effective teacher who always seems to be able to draw students into the learning process and help them as they go forward.

**John Rowe Workman Award for Excellence  
in Teaching in the Humanities**

MICHELLE CLAYTON  
*Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies and  
Associate Professor of Comparative Literature*

A specialist in modern poetry, avant-garde aesthetics, contemporary literature, dance, and film studies, Michelle is a model humanities professor who brings to her teaching and advising a brilliantly capacious and creative intellect along with an immeasurable level of dedication. Her course requirements foment lively learning environments that combine opportunities for individual expression and collaborative exploration.

**Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching**

JASON PROTASS  
*Assistant Professor of Religious Studies*

In light of Professor Protass's deep commitment to high standards of excellence in teaching – the creativity of his courses, his deep engagement with undergraduates and graduate students, and the long hours of service to them – he is a strong and worthy candidate for this Brown honor and award. Students are attracted to the content of his courses, the rigor of his courses, and Professor Protass's thoughtful pedagogical approaches.

CARRIE SPEARIN  
*Lecturer in Sociology*

Professor Spearin exemplifies all that is admirable about the Sociology Department. Over the course of the twelve years she has been in the department, she has instructed more than 3,000 undergraduates, and for many concentrators, her classes are the reason they chose sociology. One student notes, "Everything that Professor Spearin does in the classroom is designed to enhance the undergraduate experience and fostering a relationship with her has been one of the most meaningful parts of my time at Brown."

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Dean of the College

**Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship**

The Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship is awarded to regular untenured members of the faculty (assistant professors and lecturers) who have achieved a record of excellence in teaching and scholarship during their first years at Brown.

ORIEL FELDMANHALL  
*Assistant Professor of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences*

For her scholarship in the field of social psychology, for her accomplishments in undergraduate teaching, and for her innovative, impactful research program.

JONATHAN POBER  
*Assistant Professor of Physics*

For combining innovation and excellence in teaching with an impactful and highly visible research in cosmology.

COLIN CHANNER  
*Assistant Professor of Literary Arts*

For his transformation of the classroom into a laboratory for literature and living, and for his impressive writing accomplishments and publications.

BATHSHEBA DEMUTH  
*Assistant Professor of History and Environment and Society*

For her inspired, inspiring teaching of environmental history, and for her embodiment of integrative scholarship.

### **The Karen T. Romer Award for Excellence in Advising**

The Karen T. Romer Award was created in 2004 to recognize and reward excellence in advising by Brown faculty. The prize was established by the family of trustee Marty Granoff and is named for a former Associate Dean of the College who was a creative and passionate advocate for undergraduate education.

**NANCY KHALEK**

*Associate Professor of Religious Studies*

For her deep commitment to advising – both formally and informally – and working with students to advance diversity and inclusion at Brown.

### **Howard R. Swearer Engaged Faculty Award for Teaching**

This award recognizes innovative pedagogy that produces high-impact learning experiences and collaborative educational partnerships that address major social challenges and contribute to tangible public benefit.

**AMY G. REMENSNYDER**

*Professor of History and Royce Family Professor of Teaching Excellence*

Since 2014, Amy Remensnyder has been an imaginative, passionate, and inspiring teacher of both Brown students and incarcerated students through her course, “Locked Up: A Global History of Slavery and Captivity.” She also deliberately supports student leadership beyond the classroom and organizes colleagues to expand engagement and educational opportunity.

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### **Dean of the Graduate School**

### **Graduate School Faculty Award for Advising and Mentoring**

The Graduate School Faculty Award for Advising and Mentoring recognizes a faculty member who has made a significant contribution as an advisor and mentor to graduate students.

**JOHN CHERRY**

*Joukowsky Family Professor of Archaeology, Professor of Classics, Professor of Anthropology*

As Director of Graduate Study, John Cherry always maintains an open-door policy, welcoming students to stop by his office with questions. His greatest strength as an advisor comes from how much he cares about each of his students as individuals and scholars. He selflessly offers constant advice and support to both current and previous students.

**ANDREW FOSTER**

*Director of Social Science Research Institute, Professor of Economics*

Andrew Foster is a tireless and empathetic advisor who puts his students' needs first. He is generous with his time, his insights, and his networks. His wide-ranging research interests and skills allow him to advise students with equal comfort on theory, field work and qualitative methods while his newly implemented weekly discussion meetings allow students and faculty to informally discuss their projects and gather feedback.

### **Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching: Brown Graduate Students**

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes outstanding pedagogical achievement by Brown University graduate students.

**DAVID MATTHEW ABEL**

*Computer Science*

Students have praised doctoral candidate in Computer Science, David Abel, for his classroom instruction, saying that he was, “mesmerizing and I found myself truly excited to come to lectures and office hours.” His mentors have described his syllabi as innovative. Additionally, he was instrumental in launching a mentoring program to help first year doctoral students in Computer Science.

KIMBERLY JUNE LEWIS  
*Anthropology*

Kimberly Lewis, who recently defended her dissertation in Anthropology, is an excellent and clear communicator and was lauded by her students as the “best TA they ever had.” She has offered “inclusive office hours” to create open dialogue with students, demystify the “hidden curriculum” of college, and level the playing field for students from diverse backgrounds.

JOHN SANTIAGO  
*Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry*

John Santiago, a doctoral candidate in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry, has been a critical member of Brown’s Initiative to Maximize Student Development and played an important role in implementing an interactive component for the scientific writing module. He selflessly tutors and encourages his fellow graduate students both formally and informally. He has been recognized as an excellent, thoughtful, and effective teaching assistant.

ABNER SANTOS  
*Portuguese and Brazilian Studies*

As a doctoral candidate in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, Abner Santos has mastered the art of language teaching. His lesson plans are both creative and carefully thought out. He is recognized by students for developing imaginative new ways to make courses more relatable and engaging. His work with students in his department’s Writing Club is also exemplary.

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Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences

**Dean’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching,  
Advising and Mentoring in the Biological Sciences**

This annual award recognizes a faculty member in the Division of Biology and Medicine for outstanding teaching, advising, and mentoring of students in the Undergraduate Divisional programs in the Biological Sciences.

JAMES R. KELLNER  
*Peggy and Henry D. Sharpe Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Assistant  
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Environment and Society*

Professor Kellner has contributed the highest levels of advising, mentoring, and inclusive teaching to Biology at Brown. His course, Diversity of Life, deserves particular recognition as an innovative foundations course for hundreds of students with diverse academic interests. Students describe Diversity of Life as a life changing experience and Professor Kellner as among the best professors they have experienced at Brown.

**Dean’s Award for Excellence in Graduate and  
Postdoctoral Teaching and Mentoring in the Biological Sciences**

This award recognizes a faculty member (campus or hospital-based) in the Division of Biology and Medicine for outstanding teaching and mentoring of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

MARK JOHNSON  
*Associate Professor of Biology  
Department of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry*

Professor Mark Johnson is widely known for his contagious enthusiasm for science and learning and for the exciting training opportunities he creates for graduate students. Mark’s personalized, student-oriented approach to mentoring helps students uniquely develop as scientists during their graduate training. He has gone beyond providing students with his guidance on improving their critical thinking and experimental design skills, and further developing their written and oral communication skills; he has challenged and empowered them to seek out opportunities such as initiating a SACNAS chapter, and designing innovative approaches to career development events with the inception of BioCon.

### **Dean's Award for Faculty Research Mentoring in the Division of Biology and Medicine**

This award recognizes a faculty member (campus or hospital-based) in the Division of Biology and Medicine for outstanding research mentoring of junior faculty.

**ROBERT M. SWIFT**

*Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior*

Dr. Swift is an exceptionally well-trained clinician-scientist and a distinguished mentor. His outstanding mentorship abilities have been critically important to the professional and academic career development of a host of junior faculty trainees pursuing research programs in the molecular and behavioral mechanisms underlying drug and alcohol addiction. Dr. Swift has demonstrated remarkable scholarly productivity with his mentees, including the publication of more than 130 peer-reviewed manuscripts.

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### **Dean of the School of Public Health**

The Deans' Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring recognize outstanding contributions in teaching and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students.

### **Dean's Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching in Public Health**

**JENNIFER NAZARENO**

*Assistant Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences*

A medical sociologist, Nazareno studies the lived experiences of immigrant Filipino women who emerged as owners of health and long-term service businesses in the US. Her research areas include the structural and social determinants of health and health inequalities; political economy and the organization of long-term care; women's migration, labor, and entrepreneurship. Nazareno, previously a Presidential Post-Doctoral Fellow in the School of Public Health, also holds an appointment in the Jonathan M. Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship. She has taught three graduate level courses at Brown.

### **Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentoring in Public Health**

**DAVID M. WILLIAMS**

*Associate Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences*  
*Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior*

A licensed clinical psychologist, Williams's research interests are in understanding the interplay between affective and cognitive factors in determining health-related behavior, and the application of this knowledge to the design of health behavior interventions for exercise promotion and smoking cessation. In addition to directing the Center for Health Equity Research and the master's program in behavioral and social health sciences, Williams is the author of over 60 scholarly articles and two books.

**AMAL N. TRIVEDI**

*Associate Professor of Health Services, Policy and Practice*  
*Associate Professor of Medicine*

A general internist and health services researcher, Dr. Trivedi studies quality of care and health care disparities, with a particular emphasis on the impact of patient and provider incentives on quality and equity of care. His research has been published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *Health Affairs*. Dr. Trivedi teaches courses at Brown to medical students and residents as well as to graduate students in public health.

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Dean of the School of Engineering

**Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching in Engineering**

This annual award is presented to a faculty member in the School of Engineering in recognition of outstanding classroom teaching of undergraduate and/or graduate students.

IRIS BAHAR

*Professor of Engineering; School of Engineering*

For her dedication and commitment to teaching and to students.

**Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentoring in Engineering**

This annual award is presented to a faculty member in the School of Engineering in recognition of outstanding mentoring and advising of undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, or junior faculty.

KAREEN COULOMBE

*Assistant Professor of Engineering; School of Engineering*

A fantastic teacher, mentor, and incredible role model.

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Dean of the School of Professional Studies

**The Reginald D. Archambault Award for Teaching Excellence**

This annual award recognizes Brown graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who provide thoughtful, responsive, and student-centered teaching to students in the summer programs. The award is named for Reginald Archambault, Professor and former Chair of the Education Department, who is a Dewey Scholar and founding Dean of Summer Studies.

**Award for Teaching in Summer Session**

DORIA CHARLSON

*PhD Candidate, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies*

Using a multidisciplinary and dynamic approach with clear goals and objectives, Doria scaffolds students' learning so they successfully complete assignments while building upon their skills until they are able to identify and articulate their position on topics that are important to them. Through these methods, she teaches students not only how and why to communicate, but in what ways their communication is intertwined with social-cultural, political, and economic phenomena.

MELISSA MCGUIRL

*PhD Candidate, Applied Mathematics*

With an intentional focus on hands-on and real world content, Melissa employs low- and high-stakes assessments, building student confidence with the material and their own abilities to succeed in the course. Through the use of participation driven non-graded weekly problem sessions with content far beyond that on the exams, she builds an inclusive environment where students work together, not for a grade, but because they are inspired to help each other succeed.

### **Award for Teaching in Pre-College Program**

**BETH CAPPER**

*PhD Candidate, Modern Culture and Media*

Through well-designed curriculum, Beth incorporates diverse perspectives into course content and helps students discover, parse, and understand complex terminology and connections between literary works, and modern life and experiences. Through her intentional focus on creating an inclusive classroom environment, she ensures that complex issues surrounding power and social differences are discussed in an open and frank manner, with all voices recognized and valued.

**BRIGITTE STEPANOV**

*PhD Candidate, French Studies*

Brigitte's teaching skills are evident in her focus on reflective teaching practices, and the attention with which she approaches dynamic, sensitive, and emotionally challenging topics: she clearly articulates the goals for the course and students; displaces herself as the central figure in the classroom; scaffolds learning for success; and uses a series of multi-modal student-centered techniques to encourage thorough discourse and understanding of the material.

### **Award for Teaching STEM Content to Middle School Students**

**KRISTIN SCAPLEN**

*Postdoctoral Research Associate, Neuroscience*

Kristin's natural talent for teaching is evident in the way she weaves together complex and simple student-driven active learning techniques to create a comprehensive experience for all involved. Through her focus on formative and summative feedback, she is able to modify and connect the class to each individual in ways that make the material tangible and meaningful.