

A close-up photograph of a tree branch covered in vibrant pink cherry blossoms. The blossoms are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep pink centers and others as lighter pink buds. Green leaves are interspersed among the flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a park or campus setting.

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY 2023

Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
Student Union Ballroom  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas



*The University of Nevada, Las Vegas wishes to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous communities of this region, and recognize that the university is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwuvi, Southern Paiute People. We offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to study, learn, work, and be in community with this land. We encourage everyone in this space to engage in continued learning about the Indigenous peoples who work and live on this land since time immemorial, including the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and the Moapa Band of Paiutes, and about the historical and present realities of colonialism.*

*As one of the most diverse universities in the United States, UNLV believes it is important to recognize and appreciate the use of Southern Paiute land as part of its mission to be a welcoming and inclusive place for working and learning.*





Welcome!

Each spring, we take great pleasure in celebrating the accomplishments of our top-performing students, faculty, and staff. It's a time to recognize the commitment to excellence that is propelling UNLV along its Top Tier path. With more than 60 awards being presented today, it's easy to see the abundance of talent we have on our campus.

This afternoon, we'll highlight achievements that span all areas of academia. Our honorees have garnered recognition as scholars, teachers, academic advisors, leaders, and innovators. Representing our unique diversity, they come from colleges, schools, and units across the university and from both the undergraduate and graduate student bodies. They have been awarded these recognitions by our NSHE Board of Regents, university committees, and students.

To our honorees, your successes have set a high bar for others to follow, and you should be so proud of the work you've done. Your passion, dedication, and Rebel spirit have enriched our university in countless ways, and each of you have played an important role in our progress towards achieving our Top Tier goals and providing a world-class education.

Today we join all of our university colleagues in expressing our deep appreciation and congratulations to those outstanding individuals being recognized. It's an honor to celebrate with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith E. Whitfield". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Keith E. Whitfield, Ph.D.  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris L. Heavey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris L. Heavey, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and Provost



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**REGENTS' AWARDS**

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**STUDENT AWARDS** .....

Sam Lieberman Regents' Award for Student Scholarship  
Graduate

**Andrew Ortiz**  
*School of Integrated Health Sciences*

Undergraduate  
**Savanna Vacek**  
*Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering*

**FACULTY AWARDS** .....

Regents' Rising Researcher Award  
**Jennifer Byrnes**  
*College of Liberal Arts*

**Jason Flatt**  
*School of Public Health*

**Shane Kraus**  
*College of Liberal Arts*

Regents' Creative Activities Award  
**Adam Schroeder**  
*College of Fine Arts*

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

RESEARCH AWARDS .....

Harry Reid Silver State Research Award  
Paul Oh  
Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award  
Francis Cucinotta  
School of Integrated Health Sciences

Matthew Lachniet  
College of Sciences

Barrick Scholar Award  
Jaeyun Moon  
Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

Boo Shan Tseng  
College of Sciences

TEACHING AWARDS .....

UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award  
Bryan Blankfield  
Honors College

Kaitlin Clinnin  
College of Liberal Arts

Noria Litaker  
College of Liberal Arts

Alex G. and Faye Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award  
Jennifer Guerra  
College of Sciences



**UNLV Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award**

**Tina Vo**

*College of Education*

**UNLV Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Award**

**Kirsten Barnstorf-DeBord**

*College of Liberal Arts*

**Jamie Huston**

*College of Liberal Arts*

**Ian Seidenberg**

*William F. Harrah College of Hospitality*

**ACADEMIC FACULTY AWARDS** .....

**UNLV Distinguished Professor**

**Francis Cucinotta**

*School of Integrated Health Sciences*

**Outstanding Department Chair**

**Rajiv Kishore**

*Lee Business School*

**James S. McPhee Librarian of the Year**

**Xan Goodman**

*University Libraries*

**Educational Outreach Faculty Excellence Award**

**Angelie Bell**

*Division of Educational Outreach*

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

TOP TIER AWARDS .....

Top Tier Award  
Hyunhwa “Henna” Lee  
School of Nursing

ASSESSMENT/ACCREDITATION/MISSION FULFILLMENT AWARDS

Academic Assessment Award (Individual)  
Melissa Morris  
Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

UNLV Accreditation Award  
School of Public Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Health  
Lead: Manoj Sharma

UNLV Mission Fulfillment Grant  
School of Public Health  
Lead: Nicole Espinoza

Dean’s Office, College of Liberal Arts  
Lead: Jenna Heath

Academic Success Center - Academic Transitions and Support  
Lead: Emily Shreve

ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARDS .....

Academic Advisor Award  
Kevin McVay  
Undergraduate, College of Sciences

Samuel Song  
Graduate, College of Education

Academic Advising Center of the Year Award (Student Choice)  
Greenspun College of Urban Affairs Advising Center





## **ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY AWARDS** .....

Administrative Faculty Member of the Year, Senior Faculty Award

**Daniel Labrecque**

*Office of Information Technology*

Administrative Faculty Member of the Year, Junior Faculty Award

**Janelle Yasukochi**

*Academic Advising*

## **GRADUATE COLLEGE AWARDS** .....

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Leadership Award

**Natalie Pennington**

*Greenspun College of Urban Affairs*

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentorship Award

**MaryKay Orgill**

*College of Sciences*

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award - 1<sup>st</sup> place

**Nanette Hilton**

*College of Liberal Arts*

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award - 2<sup>nd</sup> place

**Md Hasan**

*College of Sciences*

Outstanding STEM Thesis Award

**Evan O'Neal**, *College of Sciences*

*"Source and Parental Melts of Poikilitic Shergottites:  
Implications for Martian Magmatism"*

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

GRADUATE COLLEGE AWARDS continued .....

Outstanding Non-STEM Thesis Award  
Madison Wiese, Greenspun College of Urban Affairs  
"Communicating Pain Unseen: Addressing Health Outcomes in Sexual Activity for Women with Endometriosis"

Outstanding STEM Dissertation Award  
Suzanne Mulligan, College of Sciences  
"The Application Of Detrital Zircon Geochronology, Pressure Temperature Modeling, Monazite Petrochronology, and Quartz-in-Garnet Elastic Geobarometry to the Tectonic Evolution of the Funeral Mountains and Related Metamorphic Core Complexes"

Outstanding Non-STEM Dissertation Award  
Edward Smith, College of Liberal Arts  
"The Psychopathology Circumplex+: A Novel Conceptualization of Psychopathology and Associated Measure"

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS .....

Community Engagement Service-Learning Faculty Award  
Christina Demopoulos  
School of Dental Medicine

Community Engagement Community-Based Research Faculty Award  
Manoj Sharma  
School of Public Health

Community Engagement Faculty/Staff Outreach Award  
Heather Richardson  
Service Learning and Leadership

Community Engagement Student Service Award  
Romina Ballesteros-Paniagua  
School of Integrated Health Sciences



## OUTGOING ADMINISTRATORS .....

**Andrew Hanson**  
*Dean, Honors College*

**Laurel Pritchard**  
*Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*

**Gina Strebel**  
*Associate Vice President for Academic Resources*

**Lori Temple**  
*Vice Provost for Information Technology*

**Jean Vock**  
*Senior Vice President for Business Affairs/  
Chief Financial Officer*



COLLEGE AND UNIT AWARDS

ACADEMIC ADVISING .....

Academic Advising Center Excellence in Efficiency (Student Choice)  
William F. Harrah College of Hospitality Advising Center

Academic Advising Center Who is the Most Welcoming (Student Choice)  
College of Education Advising Center

Academic Advising Center with the Highest Quality of Service (Student Choice)  
Pre-Professional Advising Center

Outstanding Advising Administrator  
Tiffany Schmier  
Academic Success Center

Outstanding Advisor  
Al Hastings  
Honors College

Maria Aladjova  
Health Sciences

Outstanding New Advisor  
Tashauna Stewart  
Lee Business School

Morgan Maunakea  
College of Sciences



## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER .....**

**Academic Success Center Collaboration Award**

**Emily Shreve**

*Academic Transitions and Learning Support*

**Academic Success Center Collegiality Award**

**Jacquee DeJesus**

*Academic Advising*

**Academic Success Center Faculty Award**

**Yingtao Jiang**

*Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering*

**Academic Success Center Service Award**

**Joe Ervin**

*Academic Transitions and Learning Support*

**Academic Success Center Student-Centered Award**

**Alan Hott**

*Student Athlete Academic Services*



COLLEGE AND UNIT AWARDS

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER *continued* .....

Campus Community Partner Award  
Karen Violanti  
*First-Year Experience*

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Employee  
Ronsan Mendoza

Outstanding Graduate Student Employee  
Marian Eckert-Berry  
  
Melissa Hernandez

Academic Success Center Student Award  
Jacob Ramirez Morales

LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL .....

Lee Business School Researcher of the Year  
Rajiv Kishore  
*Department of Management, Entrepreneurship,  
and Technology*

Lee Business School Distinguished Service Award  
Shawn McCoy  
*Department of Finance*

Lee Business School Teacher of the Year  
Darwin Hopwood  
*Department of Finance*





## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** .....

### **Distinguished Research Award**

**Federick Ngo**

*Department of Educational Psychology,  
Leadership, and Higher Education*

### **Distinguished Teaching Award**

**Tina Vo**

*Department of Teaching and Learning*

### **Distinguished Service Award**

**Sophie Ladd**

*Department of Teaching and Learning*

### **Early Career Award**

**Gerilyn Slicker**

*Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual,  
and Special Education*

### **Collaborative Group Award**

**Monica Brown**

*Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual,  
and Special Education*

**COLLEGE AND UNIT AWARDS**

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**HOWARD R. HUGHES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING . . . . .**

Distinguished Teacher  
Han-Jae (Jeremy) Cho  
*Department of Mechanical Engineering*

Distinguished Researcher  
Brendan Morris  
*Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Eakalak Khan  
*Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering  
and Construction*

Distinguished Faculty Service  
Melissa Morris  
*Department of Mechanical Engineering*

Distinguished Administrative Faculty Service  
Kazem Jadidirendi  
*Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering  
and Construction*

**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS . . . . .**

Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in the Arts  
Jennifer Bellor  
*School of Music*

Susanna Newbury  
*Department of Art*



**CFA Outstanding Teacher of the Year**

**Caralea Cole**

*Department of Art*

**Julie Ivy**

*School of Music*

**Joseph Svendsen**

*School of Music*

**CFA Administrative Faculty Member of the Year**

**Daniel Ware (posthumous)**

*Department of Theatre*

**HONORS COLLEGE** .....

**The Len Zane Excellence in Honors Teaching Award**

**Michael Chin**

*Honors College*

**Department in Honors Teaching Award**

**Kate Martin**

*Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV*



**COLLEGE AND UNIT AWARDS**

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**WILLIAM F. HARRAH COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY . . . . .**

Boyd Award for Teaching  
    **Jungsun (Sunny) Kim**  
        *Department of Resort, Gaming, and Golf Management*

Boyd Award for Service  
    **Murray Mackenzie**  
        *Department of Food & Beverage and Event Management*

Boyd Award for Research  
    **Mehmet Erdem**  
        *Department of Resort, Gaming, and Golf Management*

**SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED HEALTH SCIENCES . . . . .**

Distinguished Teaching Award  
    **Jennifer Nash**  
        *Department of Physical Therapy*

Distinguished Service Award  
    **Brach Poston**  
        *Department of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences*

Classified Staff Service Award  
    **Stacy Fernandes**  
        *Department of Physical Therapy*

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS . . . . .**

College of Liberal Arts Diversity Faculty Award  
    **Gloria Wong-Padoongpatt**  
        *Department of Psychology*

**Michael Alarid**  
        *Department of History*



**Rita Deanin Abbey Teacher of the Year Award**

**Paul Werth**

*Department of English*

**William Morris for Excellence in Scholarship (Humanities)**

**Jessica Teague**

*Department of English*

**William Morris for Excellence in Scholarship (Social Sciences)**

**Shane Kraus**

*Department of Psychology*

**William Morris for Excellence in Teaching (Humanities)**

**Ying Bao**

*Department of World Languages and Cultures*

**William Morris for Excellence in Teaching (Social Sciences)**

**Timothy Gauthier**

*Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and  
Ethnic Studies*

**James Frey Senior Faculty for Excellence in Scholarship**

**Barbara Roth**

*Department of Anthropology*

**Donald Schmiedel Lifetime Service Award**

**Andrew Kirk**

*Department of History*

**Catherine Gullo Bellver Fellowship in Humanities**

**Margarita Jara**

*Department of World Languages and Cultures*

**Faculty-in-Residence Award for Excellence in Teaching**

**Greg Janssen**

*Department of Philosophy*

COLLEGE AND UNIT AWARDS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES .....

Outstanding Library Faculty Scholarship Award  
Sarah Jones  
Special Collections & Archives

Outstanding Library Faculty Service Award  
Samantha Godbey  
Research & Education

SCHOOL OF NURSING .....

Outstanding Scholarship  
Hyunhwa Lee

Outstanding Didactic Teaching  
Rhigel Tan

Outstanding Clinical Teaching  
Reimund Serafica

Outstanding Service  
Minnie Wood

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH .....

Excellence in Teaching  
Amanda Morgan  
Department of Social & Behavioral Health

Excellence in Research  
Ann Vuong  
Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Excellence in Service  
Maxim Gakh  
Department of Environmental & Occupational Health





## **COLLEGE OF SCIENCES** .....

**Distinguished Faculty Researcher Award**

**Matthew S. Lachniet**

*Department of Geoscience*

**Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award**

**Michael L. Wells**

*Department of Geoscience*

**Distinguished Faculty Service Award**

**Ronald Gary**

*Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry*



**COLLEGE AND UNIT AWARDS**

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**GREENSPUN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS . . . . .**

Excellence in Research  
    **Nicholas Barr**  
        *School of Social Work*

Excellence in Teaching  
    **Lawrence Mullen**  
        *School of Public Policy and Leadership*

Excellence in Service  
    **Ashton Ridley**  
        *School of Journalism and Media Studies/KUNV Radio*

Collaboration, Leadership, and Innovation  
    **Milia Heen**  
        *School of Public Policy and Leadership/  
        MGM Resorts International Institute*

Collaboration, Leadership, and Innovation  
    **Jennifer Ream**  
        *School of Journalism and Media Studies/UNLV TV*



**UNLV appreciates the leadership and support of our  
Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents.**

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**Special thank you to:**  
UNLV President Keith E. Whitfield  
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**All Presenters and Volunteers**