



Welcome!

We are exceedingly proud of the academic achievements of our students and faculty. Their impactful research, scholarship and creative activity are advancing UNLV in its mission as a Top Tier institution. Their work stands out as innovative, and is contributing solutions to some of the most pressing problems of the day.

Thanks to their dedication to excellence, UNLV is now ranked among the top 3 percent of research institutions in the country by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

These top students and faculty are shaping the future of our region's diversifying population and workforce, driving economic activity through increased research and community partnerships, and contributing to the growth an academic health center for Southern Nevada.

The 2020 Academic Awards recognize these incredibly accomplished individuals who represent the best of our UNLV Rebels spirit.

**Chris Heavey, Ph.D.**

**Interim Executive Vice President and Provost**

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## REGENT AWARDS

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### STUDENT AWARDS

Regents' Scholar Award (Undergraduate)

**Dylan Wallace**, *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Faculty Mentor: Paul Oh, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Regents' Scholar Award (Graduate)

**Miliaikeala Heen MA**, *Department of Criminal Justice*

Dissertation: (Non-consensual) Sex, Drugs & Rock n' Roll:  
Sexual Harassment and Violence at Live Music Events  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Joel D. Lieberman

### FACULTY AWARDS

Regents' Teaching Award/Tenure Track

**Sarah Harris**, *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Regents' Teaching Award/Non-Tenure Track

**Kerie Francis**, *Department of Sociology*

Regents' Rising Researcher Award

**Ashkan Salamat**, *Department of Physics and Astronomy*

## UNIVERSITY AWARDS

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### RESEARCH AWARDS

Harry Reid Silver State Research Award

**Francis Cucinotta**, *Department of Health Physics and  
Diagnostics Sciences*

Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award

**Brian Hedlund**, *Department of Life Sciences*

Barrick Scholar Award

**Shichun Huang**, *Department of Geoscience*

### TEACHING AWARDS

UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award  
Full-time Tenured or Tenure-Track Faculty

**Sarah Harris**, *Department of Electrical and Computer  
Engineering*

UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award  
Full-time Non-Tenure Track Faculty

**Danielle Roth-Johnson**, *Gender and Sexuality Studies*  
**Kerie Francis**, *Department of Sociology*

Alex G. and Faye Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award

**Gabriel Judkins**, *Department of Geoscience*

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

**Kaitlin Clinnin**, *Department of English*

Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Instructor Award

**Jonathan Bradley**, *Department of Political Science*

**Sanae El Ibrahimy**, *School of Public Health*

**Holly O'Brien**, *College of Hospitality*

**Bin Ruan**, *Department of World Languages and Culture*

**Steve Salerno**, *Department of Journalism and Media Studies*

## ACADEMIC FACULTY AWARDS

Distinguished Professor Award

**Bing Zhang**, *Department of Physics & Astronomy*

Outstanding Department Chair Award

**Chris Kearney**, *Department of Psychology*

James S. McPhee Librarian of the Year Award

**Peter Michel**, *Director, Special Collections*

CSUN Faculty Awards

**William Ramsey**, *College of Liberal Arts*

**Brett Levner**, *College of fine Arts*

**Sophie Ladd**, *College of Education*

**Shubhra Bansal**, *Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering*

**Todd Uglow**, *William F. Harrah College of Hospitality*

**Dharini Bhammar**, *Integrated Health Sciences*

**Caitlin Saladino**, *Greenspun College of Urban Affairs*

**Tammy Perri**, *Lee Business School*

**Kathleen Robins**, *College of Sciences*

Educational Outreach Faculty Excellence Award

**Beth Rubins**, *Division of Educational Outreach*

## TOP TIER AWARDS

Top Tier Award

**Jennifer Heath**, *College of Liberal Arts*

UNLV Accreditation Award

**Vivian Surwill**, *Director of Assessment, School of Public Health*

Mission Fulfillment Grant

**Kaitlin Clinin**, *Professor and Director of Composition,  
Department of English*

**Melissa Bowles-Terry**, *Associate Director, Faculty Center*

## ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARDS

Academic Advisor Award (Undergraduate)

**John Starkey**, *Lee Business School*

Academic Advisor Award (Graduate)

**Eduardo Robleto**, *School of Life Sciences*

Academic Advising Center Award (Student Choice)

**William F. Harrah College of Hospitality**

## ACADEMIC ADVISING COUNCIL AWARDS

Outstanding Advisor

**Lauren Layton**, *College of Education*

Outstanding Administrator

**Rimi Marwah**, *Greenspun College of Urban Affairs*

Outstanding Advising Innovation

**Wilson Advising Center**, *College of Liberal Arts*

Outstanding New Advisor

**Kevin McVay**, *College of Sciences*

## ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AWARDS

Academic Assessment Award (Departmental)

**College of Liberal Arts**

Academic Assessment Award (Individual)

**Samantha Coogan**, *Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences*

## ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY AWARD

Administrative Faculty of the Year Award

**Missy Arendash**, *Alumni Membership and Events*

## GRADUATE COLLEGE AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Leadership Award

**Pramen Shrestha**, *College of Engineering*

Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentorship Award

**Jacimaria Batista**, *College of Engineering*

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

1st Place: **Weerakonda De Silva**, *College of Sciences*

2nd Place: **Mark Toussaint**, *College of Liberal Arts*

3rd Place: **Elena Bejinariu**, *College of Urban Affairs*

Outstanding STEM Thesis Award

**Rachel Rahib**, *Department of Geoscience*

"Petrogenesis of Enriched and Intermediate Poikilitic  
Shergottites: From Magmatic Source to Emplacement"

Outstanding Non-STEM Thesis Award

**Frank Johnson**, *Creative Writing*

"Literal Dope"

Outstanding STEM Dissertation Award

**Joshua Sackett**, *School of Life Sciences*

"Prokaryotic Diversity and Aqueous Geochemistry of Subsurface  
Environments of the Death Valley Regional Flow System"

Outstanding Non-STEM Dissertation Award

**Sarah McCarthy**, "Exploring Mathematics Anxiety of Students  
At-Risk for Mathematics Difficulties"

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS**

Service-Learning Faculty Award

**Elena Gandia Garcia**, *Department of World Languages and  
Culture*

Community-Based Research Faculty Award

**Szu-Ping Lee**, *Department of Physical Therapy*

Faculty/Staff Community Outreach Award

**Deborah Arteaga**, *Department of World Languages and Culture*

Student Service Award

**Francisco Valenzuela**, *Undergraduate Student, School of Life  
Sciences*



## COLLEGE AND SCHOOL AWARDS

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The following units have provided a list of their academic achievement award winners for 2020:

### LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL

Researcher of the Year Award

**Ankur Pareek**, *Department of Finance*

Teacher of the Year Award

**Jason Smith**, *Department of Accounting*

Distinguished Service Award

**Stephen Miller**, *Department of Economics*

### HONORS COLLEGE

Department in Honors Teaching Award

**Louis Kavouras**, *Department of Dance*

The Len Zane Excellence in Honors Teaching Award

**Joanna Kepka**, *Honors College*

### SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED HEALTH SCIENCES

Distinguished Teaching Award

**Catherine Turner**, *Department of Physical Therapy*

Distinguished Research Award

**Arpita Basu**, *Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences*

Distinguished Service Award

**Jennifer Nash**, *Department of Physical Therapy*

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award

**Samantha Godbey**, *Education Librarian*

Outstanding Faculty Service Award

**Brittany Paloma Fiedler**, *Instruction Librarian*

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Distinguished Researcher Award

**Balakrishnan Naduvalath**, *Department of Chemistry and  
Biochemistry*

Distinguished Teacher Award

**Wanda Taylor**, *Department of Geoscience*

Distinguished Service Award

**Helen Wing**, *School of Life Sciences*

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

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