

2020 Academic Achievement Awards



Sponsored by:

Office of the President
Marta Meana, President

&

Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
Chris L. Heavey, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

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

CONTENTS

Regent Awards	2
Student Awards	2
Faculty Awards.....	2
University Awards	3
Research Awards	3
Teaching Awards.....	3
Academic Faculty Awards	4
Top Tier Awards.....	5
Academic Advising Awards	5
Academic Advising Council Awards	5
Academic Assessment Awards	6
Administrative Faculty Award.....	6
Graduate College Awards	6
Community Engagement Awards	7
College And School Awards	8

REGENT AWARDS

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

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

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.

Jason Geddes, Chairman

Mark W. Doubrava, Vice Chairman

Patrick R. Carter

Amy J. Carvalho

Carol Del Carlo

Trevor Hayes

Cathy McAdoo

Donald Sylvantee McMichael, Sr.

John T. Moran

Kevin J. Page

Laura E. Perkins

Rick Trachok

Mr. Dean J. Gould

Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board

