Graduate Mentoring and Research Awards

Ceremony and Reception

Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Conference Rooms B & C, Student Services Building (SSB)

Graduate Mentoring Award

The Graduate College sponsors the annual Graduate Mentoring Awards. This award is designed to encourage and award excellence and innovation in all aspects of graduate mentoring. Nominees must be full members of the graduate faculty at UIC and actively engaged in the direction of graduate students in masters or doctoral programs, and have been on the faculty at UIC for at least four academic years. Up to one award is given in each of the four Graduate Program divisions.

2014 Awardees

Alexander Aruin
Professor, Applied Health Sciences, Physical Therapy Division: Life Sciences

Kay Gonzalez-Vilbazo
Associate Professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Hispanic Linguistics
Division: Fine Arts and Humanities

Dan Schonfeld
Professor, Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Division: Engineering, Mathematics, and Physical Sciences

Sultan Tepe
Assistant Professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Political Science
Division: Behavioral and Social Sciences

UIC Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring Award for Graduate Students

This award is co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, the Honors College, and the Graduate College. The award recognizes the invaluable time, effort, expertise, and concern that UIC graduate students dedicate to mentoring undergraduate students in classroom, research, and other academic settings.

2013 Awardees

Gillian Brautigam
Nursing, Women, Children and Family Health Science

Reality Canty
Liberal Arts and Sciences, Psychology

Jose Cristian Martinez
Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology

Mandy Faretta-Stutenberg
Liberal Arts and Sciences, Hispanic and Latino Studies
Jennifer Hawe  
Liberal Arts and Sciences, English; Graduate Assistant and Editorial Advisor, Honors College

Thomas Schutzius  
Engineering, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Ten additional graduate students have been designated with Honorable Mention:

- **Julio Capeles-Delgado**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Sociology  
- **Michael Coughlin**, Engineering, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering  
- **Charles Flower**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology  
- **Sarah Franz**, Applied Health Sciences, Disability Studies  
- **Adrianne Joergensen**, Architecture, Art, and Design, School of Architecture  
- **Rebecca Koppel**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Psychology  
- **Lindsay Marshall**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, English  
- **Robin Mores**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology  
- **Sandra Troxell-Smith**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology  
- **Yoonjung Shim**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chemistry

2014 Awardees

- **Vinoadharen Nair Das**  
  Liberal Arts and Sciences, Psychology

- **Persis Driver**  
  Education, Educational Psychology

- **Bernard Issa**  
  Liberal Arts and Sciences, Spanish

- **Sandra Troxell-Smith**  
  Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biology

- **Aimee Wodda**  
  Liberal Arts and Sciences, Criminology, Law, and Justice

Three additional graduate students have been designated with Honorable Mention:

- **Dionisio Amodeo**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Psychology  
- **Emily Ruehs**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Sociology  
- **Arin Weidner**, Applied Health Sciences, Kinesiology

Outstanding Thesis Award

The Graduate College sponsors the Annual Outstanding Thesis Award, which is given to the most outstanding doctoral dissertation or master’s thesis in each of the four Graduate Program divisions. While honoring the research of the student, the award is intended to also acknowledge the role of the research advisor. Up to one award is given in each of the four Graduate Program divisions.
2013 Awardees and Advisors

**Jingwei Li**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chemistry  
Division: Engineering, Mathematics, and Physical Sciences  
Advisor: **Daesung Lee**  
*Tandem Metathesis-Based Natural Product Synthesis and Synthesis of Cyclopropenes and Their Rearrangements*

**Kritika Pershad**, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Biological Sciences  
Division: Life Sciences  
Advisor: **Brian Kay**  
*Directed Evolution of the Forkhead-associated Domain to Generate Anti-Phosphospecific Reagents*

**Rachel Venema**, Social Work  
Division: Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Advisor: **Amy Watson**  
*Police Officer Decision Making in Reported Sexual Assaults*

**Tiziana Vistarini**, Philosophy  
Division: Fine Arts and Humanities  
Advisor: **Nicholas Huggett**  
*Emergent Spacetime in String Theory*