

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Dean: Dr. Lori Vermeulen

Anthropology and Sociology: Dr. Susan Johnston, Chair

**Dr. Sheldon Zink, Department of Anthropology and Sociology**

- Dr. Zink is an outstanding educator. She seems to really love the subjects she teaches and relates the material very well to the class. Dr. Zink makes a 3-hour class move efficiently and holds students' attention throughout her lectures. She also is open to communication with her classes and is approachable. Dr. Zink deserves this recognition because she demonstrates solid social-economic leadership while covering various interesting topics efficiently.
- Dr. Zink is very informative and interesting at the same time. I can always approach her to discuss the lessons. She is fair and reasonable while expecting good work from her students. I learn a lot effortlessly.

Biology: Dr. Jack Waber, Chair

**Dr. Stefanie Anne Boettger, Department of Biology**

- Dr. Boettger is always helpful and ready to answer every possible question. She adds humor to her classes which makes them go by faster and also makes them much more enjoyable. Dr. Boettger goes above and beyond her duties to make sure that each student succeeds by holding review sessions the weekend before each exam to provide extra help. She has been a great professor for Histology and Zoology lab and she always presents the material in a way that is very manageable and understandable.

**Dr. Maureen Knabb, Department of Biology**

- Dr. Knabb has shown exceptional dedication to the education and success of her students. In the Human Physiology course, her relevant, stimulating lectures appeal to students and encourage them to further their understanding of the material. She has worked to prepare numerous online lectures to enhance student's learning, providing effective supplemental instruction.
- Dr. Knabb has an overall knowledge of the subject material that far exceeds the requirements. She is more than willing to answer students' questions and find answers on her own time outside of class, always exhibiting dedication to the success of her students. Her warm demeanor and positive, caring interactions with her students show her dedication to mentoring above and beyond the call of teaching.
- Dr. Knabb is one of the most stunning human beings I have ever been blessed enough to have as an active part of my life. I know this statement may seem a bit flowery, but she truly has had the most incredible impact on my life. Last semester I had her for class, and this semester I am doing research with her for 3 days a week, which will continue both semesters next year as well, until I graduate. When I approached Dr. Knabb about doing research, my request was based on my desire to be in her presence and under her guidance. I had no idea what kind of research she did. Now, seeing her is the highlight of my week. She has been my rock during some trying experiences, offering support and wisdom all with the utmost humility. Her smile is enough to brighten my day; she is a ray of sunshine that no amount of stormy weather can keep away. I can guarantee that Dr. Knabb will be a part of my life for the rest of my life, both as a lifelong teacher and role

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

model, but also as a friend. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of recognition for all she is to her students.

**Dr. Oné Pagán, Department of Biology**

- Dr. Pagán is one of the most deserving professors I know for the Outstanding Faculty recognition. Inside the classroom he is very knowledgeable and passionate about what he teaches. He often remarks that he has the best job in the world because he gets up in front of students and talks about what he loves every day. Outside of the classroom he is always seen with a smile, making jokes, and making students feel welcome when they come to see him. He is very approachable and takes the time to truly listen to students, helping to guide and mentor them in any way possible. He also works hard to create a hospitable, friendly and very productive research environment in which he gives his students a chance to succeed and let them be a part of the creative scientific process. In short, Dr. Pagán embodies the true essence of being a doctor, which is to be a teacher.

**Dr. Leslie Slusher, Department of Biology**

- Dr. Slusher is extremely helpful in class and will take ample time to ensure that her students are grasping the material. She has experience in the field and makes the material interesting. The connections that she makes between genetics class and real life are compelling as well as she often alludes to her show dogs and the genetic mind-set involved when breeding. In addition, Dr. Slusher was helpful as my advisor as she offered me many possibilities, did not rush me out the door, and discussed possible career options with me.

Chemistry: Dr. Blaise Frost, Chair

**Dr. Jacqueline Butler, Department of Chemistry**

- Dr. Butler deserves this nomination because she clearly has a love of teaching. Each class, she is animated and prepared to teach. She also has the desire for students to succeed. This is evident by her willingness to answer questions, as well as put up review sheets on class concepts that she took the time to make.

**Dr. David Dehm, Department of Chemistry**

- Dr. Dehm is a really great lab professor because he will not just give his students the answers. He makes students figure the problems out for themselves, which helps them to remember the information in the long run. He also has a great sense of humor which makes the lab more enjoyable because organic lab can be a very rigid lab. Dr. Dehm is a very fair professor and he always gives students plenty of warning when there is going to be a quiz or when a lab report is due. He also gives plenty of instruction before each lab so that every student knows what they are doing and he is still available during the lab if they do have questions or if something goes wrong.

- Dr. Dehm has provided quality lab instruction for those in CRL 231 this semester. Short synopsis of the procedures at the beginning of each lab provide for reinforcement of learning and opportunities for clarification for students. While expecting quality work, Dr. Dehm does a fine job of lessening the stresses of intricate lab procedures and encouraging proficiency of techniques. Always interacting with students in a positive manner, Dr. Dehm encourages learning while helping students to feel confident in their work.

**Dr. James Pruitt, Department of Chemistry**

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

- I have had the pleasure of having Dr. Pruitt for both lab and lecture. His extensive knowledge and background in industry provide an exceptional foundation for his teaching. Alongside teaching very difficult course material, Dr. Pruitt is always more than willing to give his time to help students further their understanding of the material during regular office hours. It is evident that he prioritizes student success and understanding in the classroom. In the laboratory, Dr. Pruitt is extremely personable and helpful while teaching new procedures and concepts to students, encouraging them to have a full understanding of the purpose and methods of each experiment. Dr. Pruitt has been influential in the quality teaching he provides, and he pushes his students to reach a further understanding than just memorization of material or following a procedure. In his short time here, Dr. Pruitt has made a remarkable impact on the Chemistry Department, guiding many future medical, pharmaceutical, and graduate students through upper level courses in preparation for their work in various scientific fields of study.

**Professor John Townsend, Department of Chemistry**

- I believe Professor Townsend has a great sense of character and truly puts a lot of passion into his work. He teaches chemistry in such a way that makes it both fun and educational at the same time. He is able to illuminate the room with his contagious smile. I am always sure to leave feeling much happier about the upcoming day. His teaching is very relatable and he is able to simplify hard concepts so that we can better understand them.

- Professor Townsend is a very knowledgeable professor in his field and deserves the highest regard for his work over the years. He has been an excellent teacher for general chemistry 1 and 2 and is very relatable to us students. I appreciate the time he spends reviewing material during class that is more difficult and the fact that he always ensures that we understand a topic fully before moving on to a new one. Again, Professor Townsend is easy to approach and provides a comfortable setting in his classroom so we are able to learn in the most effective way.

Communication Studies: Dr. Timothy Brown, Chair

**Dr. Kevin Dean, Department of Communication Studies**

- Dr. Dean makes class very interesting, although the information could be dry. He actively tries to teach interesting and intelligent information. He designs the class so the students can participate. He genuinely seems to care about the success of each of his students.

- I'm amazed at how well Dr. Dean tells stories that I could connect with. Towards the beginning of the semester, he told a story about Robert Kennedy that actually brought tears to my eyes. He is an amazing professor who has a unique way of empathizing with students, and makes a three-hour class fun.

- Dr. Kevin Dean is an excellent professor. He keeps the class interested in his lectures with interesting and comedic stories. The fact that he is always in a positive mood helps to make this three-hour class more bearable. He obviously puts a lot of work into the topics discussed in class.

- Dr. Dean is very outgoing and sociable with his students. He incorporates his own stories into the subjects that his students are learning, making it more fun. He gets his points across well, in a fun and entertaining way. This causes students to be more interactive when learning, and to be more interested in the topics.

## Outstanding Faculty Recipients 2012-2013 Academic Year

- This professor is very enthusiastic about his work and classroom. He comes to class every day with a positive attitude and a smile on his face. Dr. Dean makes it easy for his students to enjoy his class through the interesting and relevant stories that he tells. Kevin Dean deserves this recognition because he is a great professor that can easily be looked up to by his students.
- Dr. Dean is very enthusiastic and really knows how to make his class fun while still getting pertinent information across to us. I believe it is a great accomplishment to keep a class alert and engaged during a three-hour night class. He is also very helpful to students in need and is always willing to answer any questions that a student might have. As a first semester freshman, I did not know how I was going to feel about a three-hour lecture, but I actually look forward to his class every week.
- Dr. Dean is a very charismatic professor, and makes going to class worthwhile. He teaches his lessons in interesting formats and gets his message across in a way that is relatable to the students. His class is the one class that I look forward to most, despite the three-hour length. He makes learning thoroughly enjoyable.

### **Professor Mark Hickman, Department of Communication Studies**

- Professor Hickman is such a helpful and influential teacher who even goes so far as to help with classes that are not his own. In his class, I feel confident about speaking and life in general.
- Mark Hickman uses his strong personality and humor to make public speaking less scary and intimidating. His class makes my day every Tuesday and Thursday. He obviously cares about his students and, in turn, we care about the class and our speeches. He is a wonderful teacher and person.
- Professor Hickman manages to effectively teach his students how to overcome their fear of public speaking in an interesting and exciting way. His class is never boring and, although I loathe public speaking, I look forward to going to his class each week.
- I think this professor deserves this recognition because he really cares about the success of his students. Also, he will really take time to listen to a student's needs and help them to succeed in his classroom.
- Professor Hickman made me feel extremely comfortable here at West Chester from the start. He is extremely humorous and his unique stories, techniques, and examples allowed me to overcome my fear of public speaking in SPK208. He is one of the kindest individuals and he is always willing to help any student or give advice in his office hours where he says, "you'll never leave unhappy." I always look forward to going to his class because of the personal attention and genuine interest that he gives to all of his students.

### **Dr. David LeVasseur, Department of Communication Studies**

- Dr. LeVasseur is always organized and prepared for class. He revises the schedule when extra time is needed and makes sure that we are always up-to-date with assignments. He is a wonderful teacher and definitely knows and understands the material. He is helpful when you are confused and seems happy to be in class, which keeps the classroom environment lively and interesting. He is one of the main reasons that I am pursuing a communications studies minor.

### **Professor Dawn Pfeifer-Reitz, Department of Communication Studies**

- Professor Dawn Pfeifer-Reitz is a professor who embodies every quality of an outstanding faculty member. Professor Reitz is extremely kind, caring, and hard-working. She manages a busy schedule that includes taking care of her three children at home,

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

teaching several sections of Public Speaking here at WCU, and assuming responsibilities within her department. Even with all she has on her plate, Professor Reitz is never without a smile. She truly cares about each of her students as people, not just as students or public speakers. She takes the time to get to know every person in her class. You can expect her to stop you as you walk to your desk to ask you how your day is going—and she really cares to hear the answer. Professor Reitz's personality and teaching style enable her to create a strong class community where everyone feels comfortable and welcome. Her sense of humor and ability to relate to her students make her classroom a fun and engaging learning environment filled with laughter. Professor Reitz has a special way of making students realize their full potential. She holds her students to high standards and pushes them to give their best effort at all times. Furthermore, Professor Reitz relates the course content to her students' lives and futures. By giving her students the freedom to choose speech topics about which they are passionate, she provides every student with an authentic learning experience. With her kind heart and endless supply of fun, Professor Reitz has a special way of making her students want to come to her Public Speaking class. For these reasons, Professor Dawn Pfeifer-Reitz deserves to be recognized as an outstanding member of the West Chester University faculty.

**Dr. Kanan Sawyer, Department of Communication Studies**

- Dr. Sawyer is a communication professor that facilitates an extremely comfortable, yet professional, classroom atmosphere. She exceeds the expectations of college professors by ensuring her students are never left in the dark by being aware of current events and their surroundings. She is eager to accommodate each student's individual needs. Not only does Dr. Sawyer provide students with opportunities to reach their full potential inside the classroom, but also on campus, as she will make students aware of University-sponsored organizations or opportunities based on their unique skills and personalities.

English: Dr. Victoria Tischio, Chair

**Dr. Hannah Ashley, Department of English**

- Dr. Ashley is an outstanding professor. Her teaching style and curriculum not only "trims the fat" and nonsense of other classes, it focuses on civic engagement and teaches us things to prepare for future academic writing. Although Dr. Ashley is not one for formalities (which I enjoy), she is always direct and honest and demands nothing less than perfection from her students.

**Dr. H. Bernard Hall, Department of English**

- Dr. H. Bernard Hall is an outstanding professor in the Department of English. He brings to the classroom first-hand experiences with middle school students and a unique background in urban and hip-hop based education. Dr. Hall goes far beyond teaching us how to teach writing in middle school. He takes the time to discuss relevant topics in the field of education and prepares us for the realities of a middle school classroom. He encourages us to think about ourselves as teachers while sharing advice that we would not find in an ordinary textbook. Dr. Hall has a genuine passion for educating middle school students and preparing teacher candidates to do so. He provides us with countless tools to use in the classroom and ideas to make our lessons meaningful, engaging and authentic. Dr. Hall teaches us to focus on the process of learning, not just the product. He reminds us how important it is to understand the needs of our students and to be honest with them. He brings these ideas to our classroom by adjusting the course syllabus to

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

meet our needs as future teachers. Students who take Dr. Hall's course will be much better prepared to enter the field of education, and for this reason I believe Dr. Hall deserves to be recognized as an outstanding professor.

**Dr. Rodney Mader, Department of English**

- I have never had a professor, or even a teacher who is so conversational in how he teaches. It's wonderful. Even when Dr. Mader is lecturing, it's still interesting, because you feel like you're having a conversation. And he cares so much about his subject! He'll laugh about it, and call himself out on being too interested in a subject that, normally, would be dry, but it's still so nice to be taught by a man who honestly loves what he's talking about. He also makes it so clear that he cares about improving and changing his classes until they're the best they can be—he sends out surveys to students asking what he could change. And it's not just an end-of-semester routine, it's something that he'll change during class so that the students who filled out the surveys can see the way that he takes their feedback into consideration. He's a brilliant guy, that's never been a question, but he presents himself and his subject material in such an approachable and casual way that it never feels intimidating or overwhelming.

**Dr. Garrett Molholt, Department of English**

- Dr. Molholt is one of those rare professors who cares about his subject and has had so much life-experience, while still being an understanding teacher and creating a pleasant classroom environment. No question is stupid and no comment goes unaddressed. There is an open and welcoming atmosphere every time he enters the classroom, and every student expects and anticipates his funny little jokes and life stories that he manages to squeeze in while still covering everything on the syllabus.

**Dr. Joseph Navitsky, Department of English**

- Dr. Navitsky is an excellent teacher and his ability and passion for the topic that he teaches is obvious. Although teaching a topic like Shakespeare can be difficult at times, Dr. Navitsky explains concepts and themes to the class in such a way that everyone is able to understand the difficult text. He challenges his students to become better writers and offers many suggestions and comments in order for improvement to occur. The class is challenging but Dr. Navitsky provides an inviting environment that makes every student feel appreciated and welcomed. Full of excitement and motivation, Dr. Navitsky is always willing to take that extra step to make his class fun, effective and educational, whether it be through paying for his students to see a live performance of *Othello* or making himself available to help students with their writing outside of class and during his office hours. Dr. Navitsky is an inspiring teacher!

- Dr. Navitsky has done a wonderful job of making challenging subjects such as Shakespeare interesting. His excitement about the subject he's teaching is infectious, and makes me want to learn even more. He takes time outside of the classroom to meet with all of his students, and shows a great interest in developing our abilities as writers. The most inspiring moment of the semester was when he personally paid for every student to go see a group of actors put on *Othello*. Dr. Navitsky met us in Philadelphia and took us to the play one Thursday evening, taking time out of his personal life to give us a valuable cultural experience. He always returns papers in a timely manner, and encourages us to feel comfortable speaking in the classroom. He has made me an active participant both in his classes and in the real world. He should be acknowledged and celebrated for the great work he is doing for all of the students he works with.

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

- I would like to nominate Dr. Joseph Navitsky. His enthusiasm about Shakespeare is infectious. He has the most dedication of any professor that I have had thus far in college, meaning that he teaches from the minute he walks in the room until he leaves, and never cancels class. His writing critiques are so beneficial to a student who is in the process of developing his or her own writing style. Dr. Navitsky is also extremely willing to help his students in office hours and offers constructive criticism during this time. Although I am only a sophomore, I can guarantee that Dr. Navitsky is the best professor I have had at WCU.

**Dr. Spring Ulmer, Department of English**

- Dr. Ulmer does an amazing job of relating to her students and making the course material relevant. She is constantly engaging students and asking for suggestions and opinions on the class. She also gives opportunities for students to better their work so that they can learn from their mistakes and thus become better writers. She makes learning the topics interesting and always invites the class to have discussions and students to share their opinions, which makes the class engaging even when the topics can seem dry.

Geology and Astronomy: Dr. LeeAnn Srogi, Chair

**Professor James Maxwell, Department of Early and Middle Grades Education**

- Professor Maxwell has gone above and beyond this semester. He is not only an extremely smart man, but he is also amazingly patient, caring, and empathetic. His genuine personality makes his classroom environment so enjoyable. He teaches valuable information to future teachers and provides such great insight on what works and what does not in the teaching world. He is even taking a class period and paying for new teachers out in the work force to come in and have a “panel discussion” with our class. This will give us time to ask questions we may never get to ask and displays how much he really, truly cares. He also is taking a hike over one weekend to watch birds migrate and has invited the whole class. This just shows how much time he puts into his job. He also encourages us to go to his office hours and really makes the class a genuinely great learning experience.

- Professor Maxwell deserves recognition because he genuinely cares about each of us. He takes the time to get to know us, to make sure he can tailor activities to things we feel comfortable. He knows that not a lot of students have positive experiences with science, and works to change those views. Additionally, he goes above and beyond what is required such as putting together a panel of teachers for us to talk to in order to get perspectives from real teachers about job prospects.

**Dr. Arthur Smith, Department of Geology and Astronomy**

- Dr. Smith is energetic and truly passionate about the material he teaches. He creates a positive environment in which students feel comfortable asking questions and become interested in the subject of geology. His power points are vivid (full of detail and pictures) and he often utilizes real-world instances to explain concepts. He is friendly and knowledgeable and a great professor.

History: Dr. Wayne Hanley, Chair

**Dr. Cecelia Chien, Department of History**

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

- Dr. Chien is one of my favorite professors on this campus. She is very knowledgeable and very funny. She allows for hands on activities during class. Also, she brings in artifacts from her travels to China, which makes her classes even more interesting.
- Dr. Chien is a compassionate and highly intelligent professor who uses these traits to make her class a memorable experience. She combines personal knowledge and experiences of China with the context of the course in a way I won't soon forget. We took a field trip to Chinatown for Chinese New Year, so we were able to see Chinese culture firsthand. She also designs the class assignments so that each student can research a part of history that they're interested in, giving students the opportunity to have one area of expertise that they can share with the rest of the class to create a more complete picture of Chinese history. You can tell that she cares about each and every one of her students. For that, I am very appreciative.

**Dr. Eric Fournier, Department of History**

- Dr. Fournier deserves the recognition of an outstanding faculty member because he is an excellent professor. His passion for the process of history is evident as he inspires his students to take a similar interest. He clearly outlines his expectations for the class, challenging us with difficult assignments that promote critical thinking and long-term learning. Instead of simply presenting the information from the assigned readings, he facilitates meaningful discussion that depends on the participation of the entire class. Dr. Fournier is genuinely invested in the success of his students. He makes himself truly available during his office hours, ready to clarify assignments, provide insight on our research projects, or give general advisement about being a history major. I feel that I have learned invaluable skills in his classes.

**Dr. Charles Hardy III, Department of History**

- Dr. Hardy not only teaches his students history, but also the philosophy and essence of history in general. He engages his students by asking hard requirements and at the same time listens to advice they have for the classes. In the course U.S. Environmental History, we experienced an untraditional way of learning, as we were given the assignment of writing about a trip alone in a nearby forest. We got a unique chance of applying what we had learned to what we observed, and that is the purpose of learning. Be being able to make what you learn your own knowledge and apply it to real life, Dr. Hardy says, "You are developing your mind!"

**Dr. Robert Kodosky, Department of History**

- Dr. Kodosky is a great professor and is very knowledgeable. He pushes his students to work hard and students absorb a lot of information. His students each lead a day of discussion and critique each other's papers and presentations in order to become better historians and educators of history.

Languages and Cultures: Dr. Jerome Williams, Chair

**Dr. Brigitte Goutal, Languages and Cultures**

- I have had the pleasure of having Madame Goutal's class twice during my time here at West Chester University and since day one I have always enjoyed being in her class. She makes learning and understanding the French language very culturally informative—it's not just all memorization and conjugation of verbs as anyone who has taken a high school foreign language class might know. She teaches the French language through class discussion and interpretation of the francophone world and its culture. So not only do her

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

students learn to read, write, and speak the language, but they learn about the native speakers at the same time.

She also cares about the progress of her students in her classes. While keeping a moderate pace in the material she covers, she makes sure to engage with her students in order to gauge how much each individual student understands about the current lesson and even lessons that were previously covered. She is available after classes and in her office hours to give help to students who need it and to explain anything from test grades to small details that are not clicking with students. Additionally, while some may view the lack of using technology in the classroom as a hindrance, I find that it actually enhances her class. She does not use flashy Power Points, show time-consuming videos, or bother with the everyday fusses of technology in her everyday lessons. Using just a chalkboard or whiteboard (when she does), she is able to use class time efficiently and focus on her students completely and have her students focus completely on her.

Overall, I very much enjoy the atmosphere of her classroom and her willingness to help her students. Her lessons are always informative and helpful while not dragging on too slowly or speeding through rapidly. I believe Madame Goutal deserves recognition for her hard work as an educator and her wonderful passion for her students.

**Dr. Israel Sanz-Sanchez, Department of Languages and Cultures**

- Dr. Sanz-Sanchez is knowledgeable about Spanish and is willing to answer questions. He is actively engaged during class and is a fair grader.

**Professor Jodi Shearn, Department of Languages and Cultures**

- Through surgeries and days off, she still managed to teach effectively. She was able to grade all of our assignments in a timely fashion and gave great feedback. She made it fun to learn.

Mathematics: Kathleen Jackson, Chair

**Professor Brendan Barnhart, Department of Mathematics**

- Professor Barnhart is deserving of this recognition for many reasons. He is a very entertaining teacher who can make and take jokes. He knows what he is talking about and displays the information in a multitude of ways. Professor Barnhart uses PowerPoint and the chalkboard to make sure everyone understands. He is also an extremely fair grader.

**Dr. Michael Fisher, Department of Mathematics**

- Dr. Fisher is able to fully explain concepts of calculus that are entirely new to students in the class. What I believe makes him most effective is his flexibility. While he does have a lecture schedule, he is always able to re-explain, or reword concepts that students seem to be struggling with. In addition, he offers to stay after class, or privately meet with students who are having trouble. Overall, he provides as many resources as possible for his students to succeed.

**Professor Harold Honig, Department of Mathematics**

- Professor Honig is incredibly clear and practical with both teaching and testing. He lets you know exactly what will be on tests and also is a great conveyor of information to the students. I highly recommend Professor Honig as a teacher for any math class.

**Dr. Daniel Ilaria, Department of Mathematics**

- Dr. Ilaria has had the single largest influence on me as a future educator and on my pedagogy in education. Our math methods class is meant to develop methods for constructing lessons in Algebra and Calculus; however, through his teachings, I have

## Outstanding Faculty Recipients 2012-2013 Academic Year

learned a great deal about the subject matter. This is coming from a senior mathematics major who has tutored algebra and calc since freshman year, so developing a more thorough understanding is no small feat. And I am not alone. Our class has shared many of these epiphanies. For example: we spent two class periods constructing a workable definition for exponents. Now you would think that we could just open our textbooks or find the answer online, but as Dr. Ilaria pointed out, those definitions are incomplete and are rampant misconceptions. I can tell you I will never ever forget the definition of an exponent. I have so much respect for Dr. Ilaria as a professor, but his support in my capstone project is why I value my relationship with him. I am developing a tutoring center at Coatesville Area Senior High School, and Dr. Ilaria has agreed to be the advisor of the project. Also, he assisted a great deal developing the curriculum for the project. In all honesty, we would not have succeeded this semester without his support.

- Dr. Ilaria has affected my teaching pedagogy more than any other teacher, professor, or mentor I have encountered. He encouraged me to continue to think critically and infuse that mindset into the classroom, a philosophy I felt ostracized me from many of my education friends. Moreover, I learned more about algebra in his methods class than I did when I took algebra in middle school. Without a shadow of a doubt, Dr. Ilaria is the best teacher I have come across and I will be a better teacher because of the class I took with him.

### **Dr. Scott Parsell, Department of Mathematics**

- Dr. Parsell is one of the most fantastic teachers I have encountered, even at the 400 level. He genuinely cares about each of his students and their progression in the subject.

- Dr. Parsell (aka Scotty P) has been my advisor since freshman year and also taught me in a few classes. He has always been such a great help as an advisor and also as an instructor. He is willing to help you and do research about topics he may not know on his own in order to help you.

- Dr. Parsell has been a mentor for me since my sophomore year. Although I only had him for two classes in my college career, he was always willing to help and assist me whenever possible. When I was studying for the Math GRE subject test, Dr. Parsell devoted hours to combing through the practice questions with me, a task that he was by no means required to do. Moreover, Dr. Parsell's Complex Analysis class conflicted with a philanthropic tutoring program I was participating in last semester, and he encouraged me to take the class anyway saying we would find ways to make it work. Not only did we make it work, I got an A in the class. Now that I am student teaching, I try to emulate much of what Dr. Parsell does in his classes. He has affected my teaching pedagogy and philosophy of mathematics. In fact, he was the reason I decided to apply to Math PhD programs rather than Math Ed PhD programs.

### **Professor Laura Pyott, Department of Mathematics**

- I think this professor deserves the recognition because she cares about the success of her students. She speaks clearly and writes the main ideas of each lesson on the board. She gives handouts and walks us through humorous examples for every concept. We are allowed to go to other sessions if we oversleep or cannot make our normal class time. She tells us what to expect on tests and makes sure the homework is relatable and can be done.

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

- Laura Pyott is a really practical and clear professor. She understands and answers questions from students even when the questions are unclear. She has a great sense of humor. She is relaxed and understanding about students attending different sections of her class when they cannot make it to their own.

Philosophy: Dr. Helen Schroepfer, Chair

**Dr. Daniel Forbes, Department of Philosophy**

- Dr. Forbes is an excellent philosophy professor. Not only does he understand the material, but he makes it easy for us to understand it. He also varies his teaching methods, which I like because it makes the class exciting. He asks the class to group up and discuss the topics. I would give him an A+.
- He teaches his subject well and in an interesting way. He takes philosophy, a general education requirement for me, and turns it into an interesting class. He takes some material that could sometimes be boring and engages the class with his teaching style. His tests are fair and it seems that he really wants everyone to do well.

**Dr. Matthew Pierlott, Department of Philosophy**

- This semester I enrolled in an Introduction to Ethics course with Professor Pierlott. I am proud to say that he is an outstanding professor and that the philosophy department is lucky to have someone like him as a part of their faculty. Everyone that I talk to loves his teaching style and they have nothing but positive remarks about his class. He is a caring professor and knows what he is doing. He recognizes that students have other classes and always gives reasonable deadlines for his assignments. Pierlott's class is very discussion based, which is refreshing after spending a whole day taking notes in other classes. Overall, taking his class has been an outstanding experience.

Physics: Dr. Anthony Nicastro, Chair

**Dr. Robert Thornton, Department of Physics**

- Dr. Thornton gives an introduction for physics that suits both beginners and more skilled students. He is always available if one wants to talk about something one finds difficult. Dr. Thornton sits down with the student until he or she understands the topic. When presenting different topics, such as physical laws, Dr. Thornton uses creative methods that make it fun!

Psychology: Loretta Rieser-Danner, Chair

**Dr. Barbara Giza, Department of Psychology**

- Dr. Giza is an interesting teacher who truly cares about her students learning and wellbeing. She is extremely accommodating to the needs of the students and gives us every advantage to succeed. Due to the vigor of the class we are provided with study guides, note cards on tests, eliminating questions, and can take the top 4 out of 5 test scores. It makes a class that would be nearly impossible, more doable for us students. She shares interesting anecdotes and is very personable and relatable.
- Dr. Giza's teaching style is very straightforward and easy to follow. She has a great sense of humor and accents her lessons with relevant anecdotes. Her exams are challenging without being exceedingly difficult. Most of all, she praises her students and truly cares if they learn.

**Dr. Geeta Shivde, Department of Psychology**

Outstanding Faculty Recipients  
2012-2013 Academic Year

- Dr. Shivde is a down-to-earth professor, but manages to be very humorous in lecture. She makes class engaging and fun, while still extremely informative!