



**Associated Student Government
Faculty Honor Roll
2017-2018**

Over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year, Associated Student Government (ASG) collected nominations for the Faculty Honor Roll from the student body. Nearly 200 students submitted faculty members, writing thorough and complex portraits of the educators who make Northwestern the institution that it is. ASG wishes to honor the work of the faculty whose dedication and care for students led to their inclusion on this list. Here is your 2017-2018 Faculty Honor Roll.

Bienen School of Music

Administrators

Linda A. Jacobs

Dr. Linda A. Jacobs received her PhD from Northwestern, and is currently Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in Bienen. In one of her nominations, a student wrote that Dr. Jacobs **“is the single reason I've been able to maintain my dual-degree status during some extremely difficult times**

Northwestern. I truly can't think of anybody on this campus who deserves recognition and gratitude more than her.” Another student noted that she is remarkable in her ability to **“give each student individual attention”** and that she is a **“master problem solver.”** Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Jacobs.

Northwestern
BIENEN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Conducting and Ensembles

Albert Pinsonneault

Prof. Albert Pinsonneault received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati, directs the University Singers, co-conducts University Chorale, teaches the graduate choral literature sequence, and mentors graduate students in choral music. Admired throughout Bienen, one of his nominations read that he **“is kind and inspiring while holding us to a high standard of musicality.”** Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Pinsonneault.

McCormick School of Engineering and Design

Administrators

Heather Bacon

Heather Bacon is the Assistant Director of the Office of Engineering Personal Development in McCormick. She assists students who are struggling with course loads, planning study abroad trips, transferring into McCormick, and functions as a liaison between offices like CAPS and Accessible NU, among others. Words used to describe Ms. Bacon include, “**amazing**,” “**extremely supportive**,” and “**a gift for McCormick PAs**.” We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Bacon.

Northwestern

McCORMICK SCHOOL
OF ENGINEERING

Bruce A. Lindvall

Dr. Bruce A. Lindvall received his PhD in Educational Administration from Purdue University, and is currently Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies in McCormick. He coordinates and works to integrate marketing, student experience, and planning for graduate students at Northwestern. Students applauded him for his commitment to the bachelor’s/master’s program in McCormick. One nomination read that Dr. Lindvall, “**has the wisdom and selflessness to recognize how much time and energy he can save all of us through his own administrative feats**.” Read his full biography and job description [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Lindvall.

Ellen Worsdall

Ellen Worsdall received her M.S. in Higher Education with a concentration in counseling from University of Wisconsin. She serves as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in McCormick, and advises several groups, including the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. (SHPE) Worsdall creates initiatives and projects that improve the student experience. Many students nominated her, because, as they said “**She takes the time to listen [...] is always there for students, she’s understanding of their struggles and experiences**.” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Worsdall.

Civil and Environmental Engineering

James Hambleton

Prof. James Hambleton received his PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Dr. Hambleton was nominated for his teaching in General Engineering, EA III. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Hambleton.

Yonggang Huang

Prof. Yonggang Huang received his PhD in Civil Engineering (Geomechanics), and is currently the Walter P. Murphy Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. A student wrote in their nomination, “**He’s very engaging and really cares about his student learning**.” He is nominated for his

work in Civil and Environmental Engineering, GEN_ENG 205-2. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Huang.

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Ilya Mikhelson

Prof. Ilya Mikhelson received his PhD in Electrical Engineering, and is Assistant Professor of Instruction. He was nominated for his work teaching EA III. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Mikhelson.

Sara Owsley Sood

Prof. Sara Owsley Sood received her PhD in Computer Science from Northwestern University, and is currently an Associate Professor of Instruction, and Chookaszian Family Teaching Professor. Her nominations noted the accessible way she taught computer science to large classrooms and her willingness to meet with students outside of class to help with coursework or function as a mentor. One student wrote that she “**conveys an inspirational enthusiasm for her topic.**” Another said that Professor Sood “**is an absolutely amazing professor**” who “**spoke to a wide variety of experience.**” She is nominated for her work in EECS 111. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Sood.

Vincent St-Amour

Prof. Vincent St-Amour received his PhD in Computer Science from Northeastern University, and is currently McCormick Advisory Council Assistant Professor of Instruction in McCormick’s Department of Computer Science. He is being recognized for his teaching in EECS 213 Introduction to Computer Systems. Students said that his teaching style is “**very approachable**” and that, “**his narration of the topic draws you into the discussion.**” Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. St-Amour.

Jesse A. Tov

Prof. Jesse A. Tov received his PhD from Northeastern University, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Instruction in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering in McCormick. He is being recognized for his work in EECS 396: Systems Programming in Rust. One student wrote that, “**He cares so much about programming education, and he is excellent at bringing out the important points in class.**” Another nomination noted that he would “**answer a question in an online forum within 20 seconds**” of the student asking it. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Tov.

Materials Science and Engineering

Jonathan Emery

Prof. Jonathan Emery received his PhD in Materials Science from Northwestern University, and is currently a Lecturer in Materials Science & Engineering. His nomination reads that he made “**what was just supposed to be a prerequisite**” interesting and that he “**cared so much**” about his students. He is nominated for his work EECS 396: Systems Programming in Rust. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Emery.

Medill School of Journalism

Administrators

Karen Springen

Prof. Karen Springen received her Master's degree in Journalism from Columbia University, and is currently a Lecturer and Director of the Journalism

Residency program in Medill. Students wrote that Springen is “wonderful” and that “**Her enthusiasm is infectious. She took my phone calls at all hours of the day to help me through the [Journalism Residency] process. (...) She really went above and beyond.**” Another student said that they nominated her for “**being there for everyone on JR, always.**” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Springen.

Northwestern

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, MEDIA,
INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Charles Whitaker

Prof. Charles Whitaker received both Bachelor's and Master's degree from Medill, and is currently both Interim Dean and Professor. According to one of his nominations, Charles “**devotes so much time to help students.**” Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Mr. Whitaker.

Integrated Marketing Communications

Judy Ungar Franks

Prof. Judy Ungar Franks received her Bachelor's in Telecommunication from Michigan State University, and is currently a Lecturer in Integrated Marketing Communications. According to one student who nominated her: “[Ungar is] so awesome. **I learned so much in her course that all the rest of the IMC core courses have been an absolute BREEZE! She is down to earth, pushes us to learn.... Absolutely the best professor on campus.**” She is nominated for her work in IMC 301: Consumer Insight. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Ungar Franks.

Journalism

Mei-Ling Hopgood, Associate Professor

Mei-Ling Hopgood One of her nominations read, “Professor Hopgood is the epitome of professionalism and personality. **She cares deeply for her students on a personal and professional level.**” She is nominated for her work in Bilingual Reporting. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Hopgood.

Patti Wolter

Prof. Patti Wolter received her Master's with highest distinction from Medill, and is the Helen Gurley Brown Magazine Professor of Journalism. One student wrote that Wolter “**taught us so much—things we wish we had known the whole time we'd been at Northwestern.**” Another student said that, “**Patti is one of the**

most caring professors at Northwestern. She takes time to get to know every single student in her classes and help them advance their skills as a journalist and human being. I would not have half the experiences that I have had at Northwestern because of Patti. She is an amazing professor and amazing advisor.” She is also nominated for her work in Journalism 311: Magazine Editing. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Wolter.

School of Communication

Administrators

Debra Webster

Debra Webster is a Communication Studies Undergraduate Coordinator and Advisor. In one of her nominations, a student wrote that she is “**a great advisor who understands the needs of students but reminds them to achieve their goals.**” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Webster.

Communication Studies

Kimberly Pusateri

Prof. Kimberly Pusateri received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies. One student wrote that Dr. Pusateri is “**Super enthusiastic about her work**, and seems to know everything in her field!” She is nominated for her work in Communication Studies 395: Health and Social Media. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Pusateri.

Janice Radway

Prof. Janice Radway received her PhD in English (American Studies Program) from Michigan State University, and is currently the Walter Dill Scott Professor of Communication Studies, as well as Professor of American Studies and Gender Studies in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. One student wrote that “**Professor Radway is both brilliant and humble. She led [sic] us in engaging discussion and challenged us to go deeper in our readings. She is inspiring, yet realistic, and understands how to teach undergraduates.**” She is nominated for her work in Communication Studies/Gender Studies 333: Girlhood in Public Culture. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Radway.

Irving J. Rein

Prof. Irving J. Rein received his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, and is a Professor in the School of Communication. Dr. Rein is nominated for his work in Communications Studies 275: Persuasive Images. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Rein.

Theatre

John Haas

Prof. John Haas received his Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Northwestern University, and is currently a Lecturer and Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the School of Communication. According to his students, “**John cares about the health, wellbeing, and success of each and every one of his students. As**

an advisor, mentor, and teacher he excels in exciting his students about the material he teaches and making sure each one makes great strides.” He is nominated for his work in Theatre 354: Singing Sondheim and Rodgers and Hammerstein. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Mr. Haas.

School of Education and Social Policy

Administrators

Caitlin Burnett

Caitlin Burnett received her Master’s in Higher Education Administration and Policy at Northwestern University, is now a SESP Adviser for Learning Sciences and Learning & Organizational Change. According to students, she “**is in students’ corner**,” and is willing to even step outside of her official roles to get them the help they need. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Burnett.

David Figlio

Prof. David Figlio received his PhD in Economics the University of Wisconsin, and is currently the Dean of the School of Education and Social Policy, as well as a Professor of Education and Social Policy. According to students, Dr. Figlio is, according to one student, “**absolutely amazing**.” Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Figlio.

Susan Olson

Susan Olson, Assistant Dean in SESP and coordinator for the Seniors Honors Program, received her M.A. in College Student Personnel from the University of Maryland. According to her nomination, her work in the Dean’s office has been “**absolutely incredible**.” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Olson.

Learning and Organizational Change

Jeannette Colyvas

Prof. Jeannette Colyvas received her PhD in Sociology from Stanford University, and is currently an Associate Professor in Human Development and Social Policy, as well as an Associate Professor of Learning Sciences in SESP. In her nomination, a student wrote that she “**is so dedicated to her students that she conducted meetings via Skype while she had pneumonia and the next few weeks came to class despite still suffering from pneumonia**” Dr. Colyvas is nominated for her work in Learning and Organizational Change 311: Tools for Organizational Analysis. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Colyvas.

Learning Sciences

Shirin Vossoughi

Prof. Shirin Vossoughi received her PhD in Education from the University of California at Los Angeles, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Learning Sciences in SESP. According to one of her nominations, Dr. Vossoughi, “ **fights for equity both in and outside of the learning space and truly changed me both as a**

student and a global citizen for the better.” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Vossoughi.

Social Policy

Jerome Stermer

Prof. Jerome Stermer received an M.S. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is currently an Adjunct Lecturer in SESP’s Undergraduate Program. One student called him “**incredibly inspiring.**” He is nominated for his work in Social Policy 351: Reforming State Governments. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Mr. Stermer.

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

Administrators

Karen Allen

Karen Allen received her Master of Science in Public Service Management, and is the Associate Director of the Chicago Field Studies program. One student wrote that she was “**a wonderful advisor and truly cares for her students.**” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Allen.

Luke Flores

Luke Flores received his PhD in Neuroscience from Northwestern University, and is the director of the BioExcel and ChemExcel program. According to one student, he “**supported me and many other first generation minority students academically, with research, and with our personal lives. He gives endlessly and always makes time in his busy schedule to provide any assistance and care.**” Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Flores.

Rossitza Guenkova-Fernandez

Rossitza Guenkova-Fernandez is a Department Assistant in the Religious Studies Department. According to one of her nominations, “**She is very communicative and on top of things. She sends many helpful emails to students, and has also helped out a lot with enrollment issues.**” We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Guenkova-Fernandez.

Glenn Sucich, PhD

Glenn Sucich received his PhD in English from Northwestern University. He is an Associate Professor in the English Department, nominated for his work as a Weinberg Advisor. According to his nomination, “**He is a supportive and honest in each of his advising sessions. He remembers each student and keeps up with their in school progress and any information that was spoken about. I always trust his judgement. You can tell that he is looking out for you as a person above all and reminds us to not over extend ourselves when possible.**” Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Sucich.

African American Studies

Jennifer Nash

Jennifer Nash received her PhD in African American Studies from Harvard University, and is currently an Associate Professor of Gender & Sexuality Studies and African American Studies. According to her nominations, Dr. Nash, **“exudes her masterful control of the subject matter in all that she does. She enables complex topics to be easily comprehended by students, even those who are new to the topics at hand. Her classroom makes all students welcome and richer because of her process.”** Another student wrote that Prof. Nash’s Gender and Sexuality Studies 230: Traditions of Feminist Thought **“changed my life. It is why I chose to be a GSS major. Professor Nash was integral to my learning and this choice.”** Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Nash.

Anthropology

John C. Hudson

John Hudson received his PhD from the University of Iowa. He is a Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the Geography Program. According to one of his nomination, Dr. Hudson is **“One of the most dedicated and longest serving professors at this University, if anyone is deserving of this award he is.”** He is nominated for his work in Geography 313: North America, and 211: World Biogeography. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Hudson.

Art Theory and Practice

Michael Rakowitz

Michael Rakowitz is a conceptual artist, and Professor of Art, Theory and Practice. One student said: **“Never have I been so intellectually challenged and motivated as I had in Michael's class. He encourages and enables his students to create meaningful work, and does this by making a suitable (intellectually stimulating and encouraging) work environment and providing incisive feedback to each and every one of his students.”** He is nominated for his work in Art 240: Introduction to Sculpture. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Rakowitz.

Asian American Studies

Douglas Ishii

Douglas Ishii received his PhD from the Department of American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, and is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies. He is nominated for his work in Asian American Studies 247: Asian Americans in Pop Culture and 376: Multiraciality. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Ishii.

Justin Tse, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor

Prof. Justin Tse earned his PhD in Geography from the University of British Columbia, and is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies. He is nominated for his work in Asian American Studies 303: Asian American Geographies, and 370: Global Chinatowns. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Tse.

Biology

Vinzenz Unger

Prof. Vinzenz Unger received his PhD from Cambridge University and is a Professor of Molecular Biosciences. He was described by students as **“the most dedicated professor and teacher in STEM”**, in addition to being **“incredibly kind and caring in a class where pre-med egos and competition struggle to fight for the spotlight [...] he stresses understanding and mastery of material through critical thinking rather than rote memorization, and has been the most influential figure to me on this campus in terms of teaching me how to most effectively learn.”** He is nominated for his work in Biology 308: Biochemistry. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Unger.

Chicago Field Studies

Elizabeth McCabe

Prof. Elizabeth McCabe holds a Ph.D. in English from Northwestern and is a Lead Instructor and Lecturer in Chicago Field Studies. She was nominated by several students for her work in Chicago Field Studies 398: Field Studies in Humanities. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. McCabe.

Chemistry

David Harris

Prof. David Harris earned his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry. According to one nomination, he **“made a hard class so bearable”** and is **“extremely enthusiastic about the material and cares about our learning.”** He is nominated for his work in Chemistry 152: Accelerated General Chemistry. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Harris.

Stephanie Knezz,

Prof. Stephanie Knezz received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and is currently Assistant Professor of Instruction and Co-Director of General Chemistry Laboratory in the Chemistry Department. Students called Dr. Knezz one of **“the most kind, approachable, and down to earth professors”** they had ever met, and stressed that she was **“always available to her students and always made sure to explain material in a way we could understand.”** She is nominated for her work in Chemistry 161 and 162: Accelerated General Chemistry. Read about her research [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Knezz.

Owen Priest

Prof. Owen Priest received his PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Minnesota at the Twin Cities, and is currently a Professor of Instruction in the Chemistry Department. According to students, he **“stresses understanding of big picture [...] and rarely focuses on minute details until he knows his students are ready.”** **“In a class that some say is among the hardest at Northwestern,”** the student continued, **“he drills the critical concepts into memory without the students actually realizing it, and offers an immense amount of resources for extra help and collaborative work, all which help to improve the experience of mastering difficult, but very rewarding, material.”** Dr. Priest was nominated for his work in Chemistry 210-2: Organic Chemistry. Read an interview of him [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Priest.

Larry S. Trzupek

Prof. Larry S. Trzupek received his PhD in Organic Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Chemistry Department. According to students he is **“very fair, and “such a great lecturer.”** Dr. Trzupek was nominated for his work in Chemistry 210: Organic Chemistry. Read about his research [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Trzupek.

Classics

John Schafer

Prof. John. Schafer received his PhD from Harvard University, and is Assistant Professor of Classics. His research focuses on the intersection of ancient philosophy and Latin literature. He is nominated for his work in Classics 350: The Epic Tradition Beyond Homer and Vergil. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Schafer.

Earth and Planetary Sciences

Patricia A. Beddows

Prof. Patricia A. Beddows received her PhD from the University of Bristol, and is Assistant Chair, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Director of Undergraduate Studies for in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science. She was nominated for her work with EARTH 360: Field Methods and Instrumentation, and according to a student, is **“so kind and wonderful.”** Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Beddows.

Daniel E. Horton

Prof. Daniel E. Horton received his PhD in Geological Sciences from the University of Michigan, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. He was nominated for his work in Earth 340: Physics of Weather & Climate. Specifically, a student lauded him for **“making the class accessible to people of different scientific backgrounds and taught atmospheric physics in the greater context of climate change.”** Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Horton.

Magdalena Osburn

Prof. Magdalena Osburn received her PhD in Geobiology from the California Institute of Technology, and is currently an Assistant Professor in Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. She was nominated by several students for her work in Earth 390: Geobiology. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Osburn.

Economics

Daley Kutzman

Prof. Daley Kutzman received her PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Economics Department.

She was nominated for her work in Economics 101: Market Failures and Economics 281: Introduction to Econometrics. According to a student, it was Dr. Kutzman who first stimulated their interest in statistics and econometrics and “**gave meaning and importance to the methods we were learning in class.**” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Kutzman.

Scott Ogawa

Prof. Scott Ogawa received his PhD in Economics from Northwestern University, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Economics Department. Students describe him as “**super passionate about teaching [...] a fantastic lecturer, and [...] unbelievably helpful in office hours,**” as well as getting students “**very engaged with active participation through economics experiments.**” He was nominated for his work in Economics 202: Introduction to Microeconomics, 310-2: Microeconomic Theory, and 329: Experimental Economics. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Ogawa.

Eric Schulz

Prof. Eric Schulz received his PhD in Economics from Northwestern University, and is currently a Professor of Instruction in the Economics Department. Students called him “**entertaining as a professor as well as very helpful [and...] very enthusiastic about class.**” He was nominated for his work in Economics 330: Behavioral Economics. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Schulz.

English

Nicholas Davis

Prof. Nicholas Davis received his PhD from Cornell University, and is currently an Associate Professor of English and Gender & Sexuality Studies, as well as the current Director of Graduate Studies in Gender & Sexuality Studies. Students lauded him for being “**passionate about film and about introducing Weinberg students to the study of film**” through English 214: Introduction to Film and Its Literatures. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Davis.

Susan Phillips

Prof. Susan Phillips received her PhD in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard University, and is currently Associate Professor in the English Department. According to one student, she “**led the classroom with great poise, delivering awesome lectures and engaging us with medieval texts in an accessible way.**” Another was impressed that she “**learned the names of all 75+ students in her lecture by the third class period [... and] wanted to make us feel our voices were being heard, and our opinions mattered.**” She was nominated for her work in English 234: Introduction to Shakespeare and 323: Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Phillips.

Whitney Taylor

Prof. Whitney Taylor was a Visiting Professor in the English Department in 2017-18. According to students, her classes are “**an absolute joy to be in [...] she guides the conversation productively by adding relevant background information and clarifying student comments so the discussion never veers off topic or stagnates [...] her empathetic demeanor creates a space where everyone participates actively which creates a very cooperative classroom environment.**” She was nominated for her work in English 368: Our

Monsters, Ourselves, the course description for which can be found [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Taylor.

French and Italian

Lam-Thao Nguyen

Prof. Lam-Thao Nguyen received his PhD from Michigan State University, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Instruction in French in the Department of French and Italian. He was nominated by several students for his work in French 111: Elementary French and French 391: Theory and Practice of Translation. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Nguyen.

German

Martina Kerlova

Prof. Martina Kerlova earned Master's Degrees in German Literature from Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, and in German Studies from Charles University in Prague. She is currently an Associate Professor of Instruction in the German Department, coordinator of second-year German and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Slavic Department. She was nominated by several students for her work in German 102-2: Intermediate German and German 322/Slavic 393: Prague City of Culture and Conflicts. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Kerlova.

History

Henry Binford

Prof. Henry Binford received his PhD from Harvard University, and is currently an Associate Professor in the History Department. He was nominated by several students for his work in History 300: History of Chicago and 322-2: Development of the Modern American City. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Binford.

Brett Gadsden

Prof. Brett Gadsden received his PhD in History from Northwestern University, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the History Department. He was nominated by several students for his work in History 102-6: Race and the American Presidency. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Gadsden.

Latina and Latino Studies

Alejandro E. Carrion

Prof. Alejandro E. Carrion received his PhD in Urban Education from The Graduate Center at the City University of New York, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Latina and Latino Studies Program. He was nominated for his work in Latina/o Studies 392: Decolonizing Education. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Carrion.

Legal Studies

Joanna L. Grisinger

Prof. Joanna L. Grisinger received both a JD and PhD in History from the University of Chicago. She is currently an Associate Professor of Instruction and the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Legal Studies Program. One student relates: **"I didn't know what sociology was entering this [Prof. Grisinger's] class. [...] Now I'm majoring in it."** She was nominated for her work in Legal Studies 340: Gender and the Law and 206: Law in Society. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Grisinger.

Linguistics

Annette D'Onofrio

Prof. D'Onofrio received her PhD in Linguistics from Stanford University, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics. According to one student, **"Annette is one of those wonderful teachers who lets every student speak from their own experience but also forces them to engage critically with any claim they make [...] She is fabulous."** She was nominated for her work in Linguistics 300: Experimental Sociolinguistics and 220: Language and Society. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. D'Onofrio.

Robert Gundlach

Prof. Robert Gundlach received his PhD from Northwestern University, and is currently Director of the Cook Family Writing Program, as well as a Professor in the Department of Linguistics. He was nominated for his work in two Freshman Seminars, Linguistics 101-6-20: Language and Childhood, and 101-6-21: The Human Voice, Spoken and Written. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Gundlach.

Gregory Ward

Prof. Gregory Ward received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently a Professor in the departments of Linguistics, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Philosophy. According to one student, Prof. Ward **"[m]ade me both question the very nature of reality, but also very much helped me find my place in it."** He was nominated for his work in Linguistics 372: Pragmatics. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Ward.

Masaya Yoshida

Prof. Masaya Yoshida received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Maryland, and is currently an Associate Professor in the department of Linguistics. According to a student, **"Masaya made me question whether I even understood my own native language, and I feel all the better for it"**. He was nominated for his work in Linguistics 360: Fundamentals of Syntax and Linguistics 342: Structure of Various Languages. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Yoshida.

Mathematics

John M. Alongi

Prof. John M. Alongi received his PhD in Mathematics from Northwestern University, and is currently the Director of Mathematical Experience for Northwestern Undergraduates (MENU), as well as a Professor of Instruction in the Department of Mathematics. According to students, Prof. Alongi is **“awesome”** and **“dedicated to his students' learning.”** He was nominated for his work in Mathematics 285. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Alongi.

Aaron Peterson

Prof. Aaron Peterson received his PhD in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics. According to a student, Dr. Peterson **“is not only very interested in the subject, but is also very concerned that students learn the material in a way that is demonstrated by his approachability, his enthusiasm, and his overall teaching method”**. He was nominated for his work in Mathematics 224: Integral Calculus of One-Variable Functions and Mathematics 325: Complex Analysis. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Peterson.

Neurobiology

David McLean

David McLean received his PhD in Neurobiology from the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurobiology. According to students, Prof. Mclean **“reminds his students that we are the future of the field”** and **“is more than happy to encourage student's passions.”** He was nominated for his work in Neuroscience 202: Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. McLean.

Philosophy

Fabrizio Cariani

Fabrizio Cariani received his PhD in Logic and the Methodology of Science from UC Berkeley, and is currently an Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department. According to a student Prof. Cariani **“taught me more than most of my other professors combined (...) because he pushed me to think and work as clearly and precisely as I could.”** He was nominated for his work in Philosophy 330: Practical Reasoning and Choice and Philosophy 352: Philosophy of Mathematics. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Cariani.

Stephen White

Prof. Stephen White received his PhD in Philosophy from UCLA and is currently an Assistant Professor in the department of Philosophy. According to one of his nominations, **“he cares deeply about his students.”** He was nominated for his work in Philosophy 360: Topics in Moral Philosophy. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. White.

Physics and Astronomy

Andrew Rivers

Prof. Andrew Rivers received his PhD in Physics from the University of New Mexico and is currently a Distinguished Senior Lecturer in the department of Physics and Astronomy. According to a student "Professor Rivers is the most genuinely compassionate science professor at NU. Period! He's a great professor, and a great man". He was nominated for his work in Physics 130-2: College Physics. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Rivers.

Political Science

John Bullock

Prof. John Bullock received his PhD in Political Science from Stanford University, and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Bullock was nominated by several students for his work in Political Science 390: Political Psychology. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Bullock.

Jordan Gans-Morse

Prof. Jordan Gans Morse received his PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and is currently an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department. Nominated by many students, Dr. Gans-Morse is recognized for his in Political Science: 369 Politics of Post-Soviet Russia. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Gans-Morse.

Thomas Ogorzalek

Prof. Thomas Ogorzalek received his PhD in Political Science from Columbia University and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. According to one student, Dr. Ogorzalek teaches "in a very clear, concise way" and "made the class accessible for me as a non poli sci major but still encouraged me to work hard." Dr. Ogorzalek is recognized for his work in Political Science 220: American Government and Politics. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Ogorzalek.

Jason Seawright

Professor Jason Seawright received his PhD in Comparative Politics, Latin America, Methodology from the University of California, Berkeley and is currently Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Political Science Department. A student praised him for being "incredibly insightful and knowledgeable." Another wrote that "Professor Seawright presents the material in this class in a really engaging and fascinating way." Dr. Seawright is recognized for his work in Political Science 106: Populism in America and Worldwide, 250: Introduction to Comparative Politics, and 210: Empirical Methods in Political Science. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Seawright.

Psychology

Renee Engeln

Prof. Renee Engeln received her PhD in Applied Social Psychology from Loyola University Chicago and is currently a Professor of Instruction in the Psychology Department. One student says Dr. Engeln "genuinely cares about students" and is an "absolutely incredible lecturer and mentor." Another credits her with making them "want to pursue psychology for my major." Dr. Engeln is recognized for her work in

Psychology 375: Psychology Tests and Measures, 110: Introduction to Psychology, and 303: Psychopathology. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Engeln.

Wendi Gardner

Prof. Wendi Gardner received her PhD in Psychology from the Ohio State University, and is currently an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department. According to one student, she “**promotes student growth and makes everyone excited**” about class. Another says “**she is undoubtedly the most engaging teacher I have ever had and to make a connection like that with every student in such a large lecture hall is unreal.**” Professor Gardner is recognized for her work in Psychology 341: Positive Psychology, 110: Introduction to Psychology, and 204: Social Psychology. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Gardner.

Susan Hespos

Prof. Susan Hespos received her PhD in Development Psychology from Emory University and is currently a Professor in the Psychology Department. Nominated by several students, Dr. Hespos is recognized for her work in Psychology 218: Developmental Psychology. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Hespos.

Religious Studies

Mira Balberg

Prof. Mira Balberg received her PhD from Stanford University and is currently a Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. Nominated by several students, Dr. Balberg for her work in Religious Studies 378: Death: Myth and Meaning and 379: Confronting Death. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Balberg.

Laura Dingeldein

Prof. Laura Dingeldein received her PhD in Religious Studies from Brown University and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies. One student says “**whether students are engaging on a high or low level, she meets them where they are and works to make the class suit the needs of every student.**” Another praises her for being “**super engaging, helpful**” and promoting “**fascinating discussions in class.**” Dr. Dingeldein is recognized for her work in Religious Studies 221: Introduction to the New Testament. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present his distinction to Dr. Dingeldein.

Brannon Ingram

Prof. Brannon Ingram received his PhD in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is now an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Northwestern University. He was nominated by several students for his work in Religious Studies 250: Introduction to Islam. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Ingram.

Sarah Jacoby

Prof. Sarah Jacoby received her PhD from the University of Virginia's Department of Religious Studies. She is now an Associate Professor of Religious Studies, also Director of Undergraduate Studies. She was nominated by several students for her work in Religious Studies 210: Intro to Buddhism and Religious

Studies 314: Buddhism in the Contemporary World. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Jacoby.

Robert Orsi

Prof. Robert Orsi received his PhD from Yale University and is Professor of Religious Studies and Grace Craddock Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies. Students said that **“Professor Orsi is one of the most knowledgeable people in the field and shares his vast expertise with everyone, regardless of experience in Religious Studies. He also is generous with his time and cares about all students in his large lecture classes, which is truly remarkable.”** He was nominated for his work in History 200: New Introductory History Courses and Religious Studies 265: American Religious History from WWII to the Present. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Orsi.

Slavic Studies

Elisabeth Elliott

Prof. Elisabeth Elliott received her PhD in Slavic Linguistics from the University of Toronto, and is currently the Coordinator of Slavic Languages, Professor of Instruction and Affiliated Professor of Department of Linguistics. According to her students, **“She is amazing and this class has changed the way I see and understand the world.”** She is nominated for her work in Slavic Language and Literatures 255/ Linguistics 222: Language, Politics and Identity. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Elliott.

Gary Saul Morson

Prof. Gary Saul Morson received his PhD in Slavic Languages from Yale University and is Lawrence B. Dumas professor of the Arts and Humanities and Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature. He is described by his students as **“someone who is entirely committed to the truth”** and **“incredible at lecturing.”** He is nominated for his work in Humanities 260: Alternatives: Modeling Choice, Slavic 210: Intro to Russian Literature, and Slavic 310: Tolstoy. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Morson.

Sociology

Wendy Espeland

Prof. Wendy Espeland received her PhD in Sociology from The University of Chicago and is now a Professor in Sociology. Students describe her in this way: **“Professor Espeland made an incredibly dull class extremely interesting by picking material that made students want to engage. Her teaching methods are accessible and participatory. She is always committed to the success of her students, and even goes so far as to bring snacks and invite the class to dinner after the course ended. She is available for extra office hours and any time during class, but also respects the time of her students. She is a fair grader and an exciting lecturer who encouraged me to pursue Sociology.”** She is nominated for her work in Sociology 306: Sociological Theory. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Espeland.

Craig Rawlings

Professor Rawlings received his PhD in Sociology at University of California, Santa Barbara and is now an Associate Professor of Instruction at Northwestern University. His students describe him as “[v]ery energetic and passionate about his discipline,” as well as “engaging, intelligent, and a crazy interesting person. I want to take so many more classes with him but my schedule and his schedule don’t allow it!” He is nominated for his work in Sociology 110: Introduction to Sociology. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Rawlings.

Spanish and Portuguese

Rifka Cook

Prof. Cook Rifka completed her M.Cs. in Linguistics in Venezuela and is now a Associate Professor of Instruction at Northwestern University. Her students describe her as “[a]bsurdly kind and positive, high amount of energy and unwavering dedication to her students. Very knowledgeable [sic] of material and makes lecture fun and intimate.” She is nominated for her work in Spanish 125: Accelerated Intermediate Spanish. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Prof. Cook.

Elisa Baena

Prof. Elisa Baena, Associate Professor of Instruction in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2004. “Elisa Baena is the spanish teacher you’ve always wanted but maybe did not deserve. When we were in Barcelona, she looked out for us like we were her own kids,” one student said. Dr. Baena has been nominated for her outstanding teaching in Spanish 203: Individual Society through Written Expression and Spanish 302: Advanced Grammar. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Professor Baena.

ADMINISTRATORS

Campus Life

Resti Miranda

Resti Miranda has distinguished himself as always happy to help in Norris. According to one student, “Resti is literally there to help any person who stumbles up to the third floor of Norris with any problem. As someone at the center desk who has radioed him many times with a variety of random issues, I can testify to his ability to problem-solve. Finally, whenever I come up to use the source printer and am too #midtermed to work them at all, Resti always, no matter how many times I go in there, always patiently walks me through the process, again. I could not imagine the building without him.” We are honored to present this distinction to Mr. Miranda.

Health Professions Advising

Nancy Tapko

Nancy Tapko, Senior Assistant Director & Health Professions Advisor, earned her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. “Pre-med is a tough road,” one student wrote, and “Nancy makes herself available to answer our questions and give us advice.” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Tapko.

Leadership Development and Community Engagement

Adrian Bitton

Adrian Bitton, Assistant Director of Leadership Development and Community Engagement, received her bachelor's degree in leadership studies and rhetoric and communication studies from the University of Richmond. One student explained the significance of Bitton's work: "**she leads Women in Leadership Cohort that connects undergraduate women to a community of support.**" Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Bitton.

Valerie Buchanan

Valerie Buchanan, Assistant Director of Leadership Development & Community Engagement, has always been engaged in social justice issues. A student noted that "**she's gone above and beyond as the advisor of Alternative Student Breaks.**" Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Buchanan.

Multicultural Student Affairs

Jordan "JT" Turner

Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Affairs, Jordan "JT" Turner is responsible for managing, developing and accessing programs and activities focusing on Leadership and Education offered by Multicultural Student Affairs. "**JT makes space and truly bends over backwards for marginalized students on campus,**" commented one student. As another kindly put it, "**we are so lucky to have them at NU.**" Read JT's full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to JT.

Northwestern University Recreation

Ben Wagner

Ben Wagner, Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Wildcat Camp, has distinguished himself as going above and beyond with student athletes. One student mentioned he "**helps with the crew team a lot.**" We are honored to present Mr. Wagner with this distinction.

Office of Fellowships

Jason Kelly Roberts

Jason Kelly Roberts, Assistant Director at the Office of Fellowships, received his PhD in Screen Cultures from Northwestern. He is also Associate Chair in the Humanities Residential College at Chapin Hall, where he is the founder and host of Chapin Cinema Club. According to one student, he is "**equal parts critical and supportive in the best possible way. He tells me where I need to improve, but also gives me the support I need to do it. He never gives criticisms without presenting solutions and he makes me feel as though I can conquer the world.**" Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present Dr. Roberts with this distinction.

Office of Undergraduate Research

Peter Civetta

Peter Civetta received his PhD in Theatre Studies from Cornell University, and is currently the Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research in the Office of the Provost. According to one student, Dr. Civetta "**promotes students' research and encourages students to strive to be better researchers and apply for funding they wouldn't know about without his outreach.**" Another commented, "**Peter Civetta somehow makes starting a research process the most entertaining subject ever.**" He was nominated for his work in

supporting students as they ventured into independent research. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Civetta.

Megan Wood

Megan Wood received her PhD in Driskill Graduate Program in Life Sciences from Northwestern University, and is currently the assistant director of the Office of Undergraduate Research in the Office of the Provost. According to one student, Dr. Wood is “just an excellent individual in all aspects. She is very approachable, interested, understanding, just amazing and perfect.” She was nominated for her work in creating and supporting opportunities for undergraduate students to get started in academic research. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Dr. Wood.

One Book One Northwestern

Nancy Cunniff

Nancy Cunniff is received her B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is currently the coordinator of One Book One Northwestern. “**Her dedication to students and to Northwestern through the One Book program inspires and amazes me. Her creativity and leadership have made incredible things happen on this campus,**” said one student. She was nominated for her work in coordinating all aspects of this signature University program, paving the way for interdisciplinary conversations between community members. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Cunniff.

Student Assistance and Support Services

Mona Dugo

Ms. Mona Dugo received her graduate degree in Social Work and Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, and is currently the Senior Associate Dean of Students in Student Assistance and Support Services. According to one student, Ms. Dugo “**can make magic where there is only chaos.**” She was nominated for her work in providing support to students who needed assistance in managing their mental health concerns while thriving academically and socially on campus. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Dugo.

Nadim Rana

Mr. Nadim Rana received his Master’s in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago, and is currently the Assistant Dean of Students in Student Assistance and Support Services. One student described, “**As I was going into and returning from Medical Leave of Absence, Dean Rana made my experience as painless as possible. He was so reassuring at every step of the way, told me he appreciated me and the way I was handling the situation, and repeatedly checked in on me through the whole months-long experience. He is everything you want in a Dean.**” He was nominated for his work advising students seeking assistance in managing their mental health while at Northwestern. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Mr. Rana.

Student Enrichment Services

Kourtney Cockrell

Kourtney Cockrell received her B.A. from University of Michigan, and is currently the Director of Student Enrichment Services (SES). **“She's very accommodating and approachable,”** described one student. She was nominated for her work, as another student said, **“ensuring that low-income, first-generation, and recently, undocumented, students are receiving the maximum amount of resources possible.”** By enriching the talents of her staff, she directly impacts students and broadens the reach of the entire office. She also advocates for these students to her colleagues who may be unfamiliar with the struggles low-income, first-gen, or undocumented students face.” Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Cockrell.

Sharitza Rivera

Sharitza Rivera received her Masters of Social Work from the School of Social Service Administration at University of Chicago, and is currently the Assistant Director of Student Enrichment Services. One student said, **“Sharitza oversees the Compass Peer Mentoring Program, fostering community development among the low-income, first-gen community, ensuring that students who are interested have someone to turn to who share their identity.”** This amounts, the student continued, to **“providing Northwestern students with a positive experience that is not inhibited by being a part of a marginalized or underrepresented community.”** She was nominated for her work in directing Compass, as well as her tireless dedication to making sure that her students as individuals feel confident and supported throughout their academic journey. Read her full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Ms. Rivera.

Student Organizations and Activities

Joe Lattal

Joe Lattal received his Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration and Policy at Northwestern University, and is currently the Assistant Director of Student Organizations and Activities. One student commented that he is **“actively encouraging discussion about a harmful student exclusion culture in our clubs, therefore improving Northwestern.”** He was nominated for his work in managing resources for student organizations and improving student experiences in Source, Norris' multi-purpose collaborative space. Read his full biography [here](#). We are honored to present this distinction to Mr. Lattal.