

WELCOME TO THE SPRING AWARDS CEREMONY!

Welcome to the School of Graduate Studies' annual Awards Ceremony, an event designed to honor the winners of our 2023-2024 Merit & Achievement Awards.

This Awards Ceremony celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of our graduate students, graduate faculty members, and staff. Our awards recognize success and distinction in research and scholarship, teaching and mentoring, leadership, outreach, and service across all academic disciplines and within specific disciplinary areas. These awards also highlight the exciting work taking place at the School of Graduate Studies as well as the contributions that our students, faculty, and staff are making to Rutgers University, the New Brunswick and Newark communities, and beyond.

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate our awardees' remarkable achievements.

Mark Robson
Dean, School of Graduate Studies

RECOGNITION

The School of Graduate Studies would like to thank the graduate faculty members who served on our awards selection committees for their contributions to graduate education at Rutgers University:

Alexander Kusnecov *Psychology*
Bonnie Firestein *Cell & Developmental Biology*
Carol Byrd-Bredbenner *Nutritional Sciences*
Dan Cabanes Cruelles *Anthropology*
Debra Ballentine *Religious Studies*
Fuat Celik *Chemical & Biochemical Engineering*
Gerben Zylstra *Microbial Biology*
Hao Wang *Civil & Environmental Engineering*
Jie Gao *Computer Science*
Joseph Freeman *Biomedical Engineering*
Laura Schneider *Geography*
Lauren Aleksunes *Toxicology*
Melissa Aronczyk *Communication, Information & Media*
Nichole Garcia *Higher Education*
Waheed Bajwa *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Yair Rosenthal *Oceanography*
Yalidy Matos *Political Science*
Yeon-Soo Kim *Spanish & Portuguese*

SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE
STUDIES
SPRING
AWARDS
CEREMONY

May 9, 2024

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Kathleen Scotto | Vice Dean

**PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
2024 ACHIEVEMENT & MERIT AWARDS**

Dr. Mark Robson | Dean

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT SUPPORT

The Excellence in Student Support Award recognizes staff members who have made significant contributions to graduate education at Rutgers University.

Courtney Culler | Planning & Public Policy

Rosy Ruiz | Spanish & Portuguese

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND MENTORING

The Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award recognizes graduate faculty who have made significant contributions to graduate education at Rutgers University.

Eric Gawiser | Physics & Astronomy

Kim McKim | Microbiology & Molecular Genetics

Jennifer Theiss | Communication, Information & Media

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING

The Excellence in Leadership and Teaching Award recognizes graduate students who have made significant contributions to undergraduate and graduate education at Rutgers University.

Eagan Dean, | Literatures in English

Dr. Dana Luciano, Advisor

Robert Dougherty-Bliss | Mathematics

Dr. Doron Zeilberger, Advisor

Adriana Paldino | Biomedical Sciences – Newark

EXCELLENCE IN OUTREACH AND SERVICE

The Excellence in Outreach and Service Award recognizes SGS graduate students who have made significant contributions to organizations outside Rutgers University.

Allyson Bontempo | Communication, Information & Media

Dr. Lisa Mikesell, Advisor

Anamaria Buchhan | Biomedical

Sciences – New Brunswick/Piscataway

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S STUDENT AWARDS

The Outstanding Master's Student Award recognizes excellence in master's research and scholarship across the disciplines.

Zoey Eddy | Psychology

Prarthana Gowda | Biomedical Sciences – New Brunswick/Piscataway

Abhishek Sawalkar | Computer Science

OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL STUDENT AWARDS

The Outstanding Doctoral Student Award recognizes excellence in doctoral research and scholarship across the disciplines.

Rudrani Gangopadhyay | Comparative Literature

Dr. Anjali Nerlekar, Advisor

Anya Hess | Earth & Planetary Sciences

Dr. Yair Rosenthal, Advisor

Danielle Kozlosky | Toxicology

Dr. Lauren Aleksunes, Advisor

Michael Strawbridge | Political Science

Dr. Yalidy Matos, Advisor

STANLEY S. BERGEN MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Named in honor of Stanley S. Bergen, the president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry from 1971 to 1998—and now part of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences—the Stanley S. Bergen Medal of Excellence celebrates exceptional scholarly achievements across the biomedical sciences.

Christopher Markosian | MD/PhD Dual Degree

Dr. Renata Pasqualini, Advisor

HARVEY WATERMAN MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Named in honor of Harvey Waterman, who served Rutgers graduate students for over 40 years as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Harvey Waterman Medal of Excellence celebrates exceptional scholarly achievements across the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

Maria Garth | Art History

Dr. Jane Sharp, Advisor

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Distinguished Scholarly Achievement Award is the School of Graduate Studies' most prestigious honor. Awarded to a student who demonstrates the highest possible level of academic excellence and achievement, this award celebrates extraordinary research and scholarship.

Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie, | Sociology

Dr. Rina Bliss, Advisor

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Kathleen Scotto | Vice Dean

