

Faculty Recognition Award Recipients AY 2025-2026

Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards recognize faculty members for their excellence in teaching, including creating an environment conducive to and encouraging learning. Each year, one faculty member in the four faculty ranks (Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Clinical Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor) receives this honor.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipients are:

- **Associate Professor [Angeline Chiu](#)**, School of World Languages and Cultures, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Chiu brings enthusiasm for Latin language and culture to her teaching, incorporating field trips, reading journals, and creative projects tailored to students' interests. Her classes are energetic, inclusive, and encourage student engagement. Clear syllabi set academic and professional expectations, and Dr. Chiu fosters fairness and generosity without compromising standards. She regularly checks in with students, provides guidance for goal setting, and empowers students to take responsibility for their education while remaining supportive.
- **Assistant Professor [Alexander Clayton](#)**, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Clayton is praised for exceptional student support, fostering collaborative learning, and facilitating student-led discussions even in large classes. He encourages creative approaches to structuring discussions and integrates inquiry-based methods, public-facing assignments, and diverse scholarly perspectives—including critical race theory, gender and sexuality studies, and disability studies. Dr. Clayton creates an inclusive classroom culture where every student participates, offers weekly reading summaries to support all learners, and allows students to demonstrate understanding through multiple mediums such as digital exhibits.
- **Senior Lecturer [Keith Epstein](#)**, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
Senior Lecturer Epstein serves as Senior Experience in Engineering Design (SEED) Program Director. His teaching combines rigorous, practice-based learning with exemplary mentorship, primarily in ME 4010/EE 4100 Capstone Design I and ME 4020/EE 4200 Capstone Design II, each enrolling about 100 students. Epstein cultivates real-world clients who pitch projects to students, forms teams based on interests, and guides them through year-long collaborative projects. He encourages student-driven syllabus policies, supports open communication, fosters conflict resolution and community-building, emphasizes growth mindset and unique skills, scaffold's goal setting, and uses flexible rubrics. His courses culminate in a public showcase of student projects.

[More information about the Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards](#)

Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award

The Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award recognizes a faculty member who has achieved excellence in displaying and enacting responsiveness, availability, concern, respect, and depth of knowledge in

undergraduate academic advising. This award is a collaboration of the Office of the Provost, the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee, and the Student Government Association.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipient is:

- **Associate Professor [Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst](#)**, Department of Religion, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Morgenstein Fuerst is highly regarded as a dedicated advocate for students, consistently going above and beyond to ensure their well-being and success. Committee members emphasized her unwavering commitment to advising, highlighted by a strong letter of support for her nomination which attests to the far-reaching impact of her work. Dr. Morgenstein Fuerst's creative philosophy of advising, as reflected in her personal statement, and her nomination materials showcase her extraordinary efforts to support and advocate for vulnerable students, particularly those facing crises. Her compassionate, student-centered approach and proactive advocacy stand out as defining strengths.

[More information about the Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award](#)

Outstanding Part-time Faculty Teaching Award

The Outstanding Part-time Faculty Teaching Award recognizes the teaching contributions of part-time United Academics–represented faculty. The award is presented to a faculty member who has demonstrated a record of excellence in teaching, commitment to student learning and pedagogy innovation, evidence of inclusive practices in teaching and commitment to diversity, and notable achievement(s) in teaching, scholarship, or service recognized beyond the university that bring recognition to the department, program, college, or school.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipient is:

- **Senior Lecturer [Trish O'Kane](#)**, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
Dr. O'Kane's teaching is widely regarded by students as transformative, with course evaluations among the strongest in the Rubenstein School (frequently reaching a perfect 5.0). Dr. O'Kane's teaching is innovative, adopting a service-learning model integrating environmental education, mentoring, and social justice. As one letter-writer noted, one unique aspect of her teaching is "Dr. O'Kane's ability to create a 'village' rather than a mere class, fostering a supportive community where students feel 'valued, heard, and appreciated.'" Her work is well-known outside of UVM; for instance, her memoir was chosen as the "common read" at the University of Alabama honors College. She has won multiple awards at UVM, including the Kroepsch-Maurice award as well as the University of Vermont Outstanding Service-Learning Award from the Office of Community-University Partnerships (CUPS), and the University of Vermont Marcia Caldwell Award for Outstanding Dedication to Students from the Rubenstein School. She has published an opinion piece in the New York Times about her work with students at UVM.

[More information about the Outstanding Part-time Faculty Teaching Award](#)

Patricia A. Prelock Award for Excellence in Online Teaching

Nominees for the Patricia A. Prelock Award for Excellence in Online Teaching include both full-time and part-time faculty at all ranks who are distinguished by their outstanding online instructional abilities. These individuals serve as exemplars of excellence, inspiring fellow faculty members to continually enhance and advance their online teaching methodologies. Named in honor of former Provost Patricia Prelock, a pioneer in online education at UVM, this award recognizes innovative and effective approaches to online instruction.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipients are:

- **Full-Time Category: Assistant Professor [Cee Carter](#)**, Department of Education, College of Education and Social Services
Dr. Carter exemplifies innovative, inclusive, and deeply effective online pedagogy that has a transformative impact on students' learning and success. Across multiple fully online graduate courses, Dr. Carter demonstrates exceptional course design and delivery, intentionally leveraging multimodal technologies, structured yet flexible learning pathways, and interactive pedagogies, such as think-pair-share discussions, workshops, and community-building rituals, to foster sustained engagement and a strong sense of belonging in virtual spaces. Students consistently describe her online classrooms as "warm and inviting," noting that her thoughtful facilitation, clear organization, and responsive feedback support both rigorous learning outcomes and meaningful connection. One student shared that *"the way she designed this course and made it so accessible was essential to my success this semester,"* while another reflected that *"Dr. Carter's deftness in teaching and providing feedback online is first-rate."* Her commitment to accessibility and inclusive practices through transparent expectations, flexible deadlines, accessible materials, and individualized support has been particularly impactful for first-generation, neurodivergent, and working professionals. Coupled with her ongoing professional growth in online teaching and her profound influence on students' academic confidence, critical thinking, and satisfaction, Dr. Carter's work represents the highest standard of excellence in online education.
- **Part-Time Category: Instructor [Eva Kinnebrew](#)**, Professional and Continuing Education
Dr. Kinnebrew has demonstrated exceptional ability to deliver highly technical content through innovative, student-centered online pedagogy that consistently leads to strong engagement, learning outcomes, and student satisfaction. As documented in the nomination materials, she has designed and refined an asynchronous learning environment that combines expertly scaffolded course design, real-time coding demonstrations, applied case-study assignments, and frequent instructor-generated micro-videos that respond directly to student questions, creating a strong sense of instructor presence and community despite the absence of live sessions. Her courses demonstrate a deep commitment to accessibility and inclusion through clear organization, transparent expectations, flexible support structures, and intentional normalization of learning challenges, particularly for students new to coding and geospatial analysis. Students consistently report high levels of confidence and skill development, describing her course as *"the perfect example of how classes can excel asynchronously"* and noting that *"Eva is incredibly helpful and provided so many great resources that made this new coding platform easy to pick up and apply,"* clear evidence of her impact on student success and satisfaction in online learning.

[More information about the Patricia A. Prelock Award for Excellence in Online Teaching](#)

President's Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award

Nominees for the President's Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award are lecturers or clinical faculty, full-time tenure or tenure-track faculty, research faculty, library faculty, or Extension faculty who have worked at the University of Vermont for at least five years and have demonstrated sustained and exceptional leadership and service to our community. This includes, but is not limited to, service at the department, college, school, or university-wide level as a member of committees, governance groups, and advising student organizations or committees.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipient is:

- **Associate Professor [Jacqueline \(Jackie\) Weinstock](#)**, Department of Counseling, Human Development and Family Science, College of Education and Social Services
Dr. Weinstock impressed reviewers with her significant and sustained service in supporting LGBTQIA+ students and faculty. Dr. Weinstock's contributions have been instrumental in the development of the Prism Center. As a class service project, Dr. Weinstock co-founded the Pride Center of Vermont, a statewide community center based in Burlington. The impact of Dr. Weinstock's contribution is clear; as one example, the first ever award for LGBTQIA Service from the LGBTQIA Services Office was awarded to Dr. Weinstock in 2000. Further, in 2001, this award was named the Weinstock Service Award to honor her contributions to the UVM LGBTQIA Community. The Committee noted that Dr. Weinstock's service and leadership have been critical in UVM's reputation for supporting LGBTQIA students, faculty, and staff. In addition, Dr. Weinstock has engaged in service work focused on the social climate at UVM (e.g., removing William Bailey's name from the Howe Library), UVM's campus climate (Primary Investigator for UVM's Campus Climate Project), and critical thinking (e.g., administering critical thinking assessments). She has also been a leader and influential member of UVM's faculty union, United Academics. As one member of the committee noted, Jackie has a "lifetime career of service for students and supporting our UVM community and LGBTQIA+ communities."

[More information about the President's Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award](#)

President's Distinguished Senior Lecturer and Lecturer Awards

The President's Distinguished Senior Lecturer and Lecturer Awards recognize the distinguished accomplishments of faculty who hold the Senior Lecturer or Lecturer rank for their outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipients are:

- **Lecturer [M. Noelia Barrios-García](#)**, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
Dr. Barrios-García's influence at UVM is extensive; as one letter writer noted, "It feels a little crude to put her accomplishments into accounting terms, but her record is quite remarkable: >2,700 students taught in 25 course offerings for a total of 8,959 student credit hours!" Dr. Barrios-García employs active learning, even in her larger classes, and has developed field and project-based learning opportunities for students. She actively engages with UVM's Center for Teaching and Learning and was recently selected as a CELO Faculty Fellow, through which she will design a new service-learning capstone in Urban Ecology. She actively mentors' students as undergraduate teaching assistants, and serves as a mentor for capstone internships and

undergraduate theses. Dr. Barrios-García is an active researcher and scholar; in fact, since coming to UVM, Dr. Barrios-García has coauthored 11 peer-reviewed publications and two book chapters. Dr. Barrios-García also has success in securing external funding for her research. She is a leader at UVM and currently serves as Interim Co-Director of the Environmental Studies major.

- **Senior Lecturer [Sarah Turner](#)**, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Turner is innovative in her teaching; she includes a service-learning component of her first-year seminar and served as a Faculty Fellow for service learning in 2018. Her work as a teacher-scholar was described as transformational in her materials. Dr. Turner's nomination materials include clear evidence of notable achievements and scholarship, with essays and chapters in peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Turner has also coedited volumes of essays published by prestigious presses. As her letters of support state, this publication record is similar to the requirements for promotion to Full Professor in her department. Dr. Turner's commitment to inclusive excellence is clear in her work teaching students to develop a critical understanding of race and racism in the US, as well as in her scholarship related to African American literature and Critical Race Studies. Dr. Turner's work is even more impressive in this challenging environment where such subject matters have been politicized. In addition, Dr. Turner's impact on how students are engaging with spaces at UVM. Dr. Turner is a leader at UVM, both within and outside of the English Department, and she has made important contributions to the development of UVM's D1 and First Year Seminar curricula.

[More information about the President's Distinguished Senior Lecturer and Lecturer Awards](#)

Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring

This award celebrates and honors exemplary mentoring of Ph.D. students by members of the Regular Graduate Faculty. Strong mentoring support is a key factor in graduate student success both during and after graduate study. Training the next generation of researchers is a vital part of the academic mission of the University of Vermont. Fundamental to such success are the faculty members who serve as mentors to our Ph.D. students. Students who enjoy effective mentoring tend to be more productive as well as more involved in their programs. Faculty mentors offer intellectual and personal leadership to support, encourage, and promote students' academic, professional, and professional development. Effective mentoring provides a foundation for a student's career long after the degree has been granted. Each academic year, the Graduate College and the Provost will recognize colleagues who exemplify the considerable efforts and accomplishments of members of the graduate faculty who serve as effective mentors of Ph.D. students. These awards are integral to the University's continuing efforts to cultivate a culture of excellence in mentoring. With these awards, the Graduate College and the Provost seek to reinforce and highlight practices that enhance the overall quality of graduate education.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipients are:

- **Professor [Matthew Liptak](#)**, Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Liptak is recognized for outstanding Ph.D. mentoring in chemistry, providing high-touch, comprehensive training in laboratory and computational methods, scientific writing and presentation, outreach, and professional development, while fostering an inclusive, motivating,

and rigorous environment that supports early transition to independent research and strong postdoctoral career outcomes across academia and industry. In support of this nomination, the materials document sustained mentorship and trainee co-authorship across the group's publications since 2013, as well as service as Graduate Program Director (2017–21). A highly funded bioinorganic chemist, Dr. Liptak has already mentored 9 Ph.D. students to degree completion and excellent postdoctoral career outcomes across academia and industry. Dr. Liptak provides his Ph.D. students with high-touch, comprehensive training in methods, writing and presentation skills, exposure to scientific outreach, as well as time management and work-life balance. The selection committee specially commended Dr. Liptak for effectively supporting students to transition early from mentored to independent research within an environment characterized as inclusive, motivating, and rigorous. Virtually all of Dr. Liptak's group's publications since 2013 have Ph.D. students as co-authors. Dr. Liptak further supports his mentees' professional and career development through conferences, networks, and Individual Development Plans focused on postdoctoral goals; indeed, he had introduced IDPs program-wide before they became UVM standard. He emphasizes thriving in a team setting and supports former students well into their postdoctoral careers.

- **Professor [Matthew Price](#)**, George W. Albee Green & Gold Professor of Psychological Science, Department of Psychological Science, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Price is recognized for exemplary doctoral mentoring in clinical psychology; through sustained, high-standard and student-centered mentorship, his trainees achieve exceptional scholarly productivity and pursue diverse post-Ph.D. trajectories across academia, clinical practice, and industry. In support of this nomination, the materials document sustained mentorship since 2013, a research program supported by \$9.1M in PI/co-PI funding that has supported 27 GRAs, and leadership as Director of the Clinical Psychology Training Program (since 2022), and Dr. Price provides rigorous core training to clinical psychology Ph.D. students through one-on-one mentoring, early immersion in scholarship, and explicit skill-building in research design, analysis, and responsible conduct of research. His students develop technical and methodological competence, grant writing, and strong communication skills, reflected in very high rates of student-led publications and conference presentations. Dr. Price's approach is characterized as holistic and high-touch—combining rigorous academic standards with genuine personal investment. He supports timely degree completion by setting clear expectations, monitoring milestones, and providing candid, constructive feedback. Nomination materials describe an inclusive, respectful lab culture with open communication and sincere attention to student well-being, including proactive support during major life stressors. Dr. Price advances students' professional and career development by connecting them to opportunities and professional networks. He respects students' individual professional goals and effectively supports career trajectories across academia, clinical practice, and industry. As Director of Clinical Training, he extends these mentoring practices program-wide through curricular improvements and expanded clinical placements and funding. Mentees continue to seek Dr. Price's guidance and collaboration beyond graduation.

[More information about the Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring](#)

University Distinguished Professor Award

The University Distinguished Professor Award is the highest academic honor that UVM bestows upon a faculty member. Holders of this title are recognized for having achieved international eminence within their respective fields of study and for the truly transformative nature of their contributions to advancing knowledge.

The AY 2025-2026 award recipients are:

- **Professor [Paul Bierman](#)**, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
Dr. Bierman's lab studies the behavior of Earth's dynamic surface and its interaction with people and climate. Starting in 2008 he has turned his attention to climate change, focusing on Greenland's ice sheet. He is well known for the application of cosmogenic isotope techniques in geomorphology and is a leader in the field of cosmogenic isotope geochemistry. In 2013 he started a cosmogenic nuclide lab at UVM that is now funded by NSF as a community facility welcoming visitors from all over to process samples. His group has been prolific, publishing 215 papers, H index of 64, >14,000 citations. He has trained 46 graduate students. He has received substantial grant funding over the years from NSF and US Geologic Survey (USGS) His international prominence is without question. He has received numerous invitations to international conferences. In 2019 he led a team of over 40 scientists to study the camp century ice core (NSF Ice core facility) drilled in 1960's. He has become one of the leading international experts on Greenland ice sheet. He has received multiple awards including an NSF Career award; Distinguished Teaching Scholar, and a Director's Award, National Science Foundation His letters of support come from members of the National Academy of Sciences: Richard Alley of Penn State and Dorothy Merritts of Franklyn and Marshall. Dr. Bierman is described as "one of the best science communicators in the Earth sciences, and probably the most prolific in books and articles accessible to the public. His book, *When the Ice is Gone*, made the New Yorker best book list of 2024.
- **Professor [Alan Steinweis](#)**, Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Steinweis has spent four decades building a career in the study of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, developing educational and academic scholarship around the Holocaust, and studying Jewish History and Culture. He currently holds the role of Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies at UVM. His work looks at the cultural and intellectual side of the Third Reich. He's written four major books that each tackle a different angle: including how the Nazi controlled artists and musicians; demonstrating how professors and researchers gave the Nazi regime legitimacy; highlighting that violence involved grassroots participation from the public; and work explaining how Nazis retained popularity with the public while being a brutal police force. His work on academic antisemitism forced the field to confront how the humanities were complicit in the regime's crimes. His book on Kristallnacht changed the received interpretation by showing the bottom-up nature of the violence. His books are published by top-tier presses like Harvard and Cambridge and translated into German and Turkish. His book "The People's Dictatorship" is shaping how thousands of students learn about this history. Dr. Steinweis has been a major academic organizer in the field. He ran UVM's Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and helped establish the first Holocaust research center in Germany in Munich. His work reflects a long, consistent career at the top level of his field and his programs served as a model across the country at other universities and colleges. His contributions have had major impacts not just in the United States but in Germany, and Israel. He has held visiting faculty positions at Oxford,

Munich, and Ben Gurion University as well as visiting chairs at Oxford and Munich. He has delivered keynote addresses on his work throughout Europe and Israel. He advocated for the creation of a Holocaust research center in Germany, which provided a long-needed home for European scholars. Dr. Steinweis is an exceptional scholar with extraordinary impact on the field of Holocaust studies. He has increased public awareness and attention to the Holocaust, and greatly enhanced the documentation and permanent record of this critical history, while guiding and mentoring development of the next generation of scholars in this field.

[More information about the University Distinguished Professor Award](#)

University Scholars Awards

The University Scholars Awards recognize distinguished UVM faculty members for sustained excellence in research and creative and scholarly activities in the following two categories: Social Sciences, Humanities, Creative Arts, and Basic and Applied Sciences (including biological, medical, and physical sciences).

The AY 2025-2026 award recipients are:

Basic and Applied Sciences:

- **Professor [Bryan Ballif](#)**, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Ballif's scholarly output is impressive, with 112 peer-reviewed publications (H-index=49 and >17 000 citations). He has made highly significant and clinically relevant discoveries of novel proteins that are determinants of four lesser-known blood types; this work led to the publication of seminal papers on blood type determination in *Nature Genetics*, *EMBO Molecular Medicine* and *Blood*. He is a sought-after expert in mass spectrometry methods and has been instrumental in getting the proteomics facility up and running. He established proteomic analysis as an important core service to the University of Vermont biomedical research enterprise and leadership for regional accessibility to proteomics through the IDEA program. Dr. Ballif has been continuously funded by NSF, NIH, DOD and private foundations. He reviews for a multitude of high-profile and well-respected journals. He has served as a grant reviewer for NSF and for funding agencies in Canada and the Netherlands, which speaks to his international stature. He's trained 15 graduate students and more than 70 undergraduates. His service and dedication to students extends well beyond his own laboratory: He has served on 75 graduate committees and more than 80 Honors theses. He has helped (with Dr. Jim Vigoreaux) develop and host regional and internal educational programs for support of underserved groups including support for research opportunities to students from Puerto Rico (2011-2017). In addition to being an internationally recognized scholar, Prof. Ballif has been an exemplary university citizen, serving on multiple committees at the University, College and Departmental level. He's also been a highly sought after collaborator for several colleagues at UVM who have relied on his unique expertise in mass spectrometry to further their research programs. In summary, Bryan Ballif is an outstanding scholar with an impeccable track record of productivity, a dedicated professor and mentor who deeply cares about not only his own trainees but all students at the university, and a collaborative and selfless colleague for many.

- **Professor [V. Ernesto Méndez](#)**, Department of Agriculture, Landscape and Environment, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Dr. Méndez's scholarly output is impressive, with 7 seven important books on Agroecology and participatory approaches and ecosystem-based livelihoods. He has published 64 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals like Nature Food. His work is used in classrooms around the world (H- index=41 and >8244 citations). Dr. Ernesto Méndez is internationally recognized as a leading scholar of Agroecology and one of the world's most distinguished contemporary researchers in this field, in both transdisciplinary and community-engaged scholarship. His work is anchored in participatory action research, and he models his approach toward improving societal impact, as well as just and equitable research practices. His work is grounded in the needs of the United States, Latin America and the African continent and includes food security, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and economic wellbeing. His letters of support note his impactful mentorship of hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students through his teaching and research and promoted the next generation of scientists in this field. Dr. Méndez served as interim chair of CALS Plant and Soil Science (now Agriculture, Landscape, Environment) 2019-2021 when he became the inaugural VPR Fellow and began UVM's successful Institute for Agroecology, the first such institute within a land grant university. He also co-directs Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative 2010-present, serves as faculty director of graduate study agroecology (2016-present). He was important in the environmental program cluster hire (4 faculty) in 2014-15 and has served in the UVM president's advisory council, and the steering committee for Food Systems initiative. For his work with community engagement, he received the WK Kellogg foundation award. In 2025, he and McKnight Foundation received the UVM Foundations Transformative Partnerships Award. His research has been sustained via multiple grants, gifts, and contracts including from the USDA, the McKnight Foundation, UVM Food systems research center, as well as a UVM Spire grant in 2012. His letters of support add to his significant scholarly contributions by emphasizing his intellect, commitment, integrity and deep humanity.

- **Professor [Stacey Sigmon](#)**, Department of Psychiatry, Larner College of Medicine
Dr. Sigmon specializes in behavioral pharmacology, substance use and addictive disorders. Dr. Sigmon has over 120 peer-reviewed publications (H-index =36, and >4,000 citations). She publishes high quality journals such as The New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, and multiple JAMA journals. She has trained 7 graduate students and 9 postdocs. She has received multiple NIH awards R01, R03, and R34, and is a co-I on a P50 grants. She is co-investigator on a T32 training grant on behavioral pharmacology and clinical research. She has done extensive service to the American Psychological Association and the College on Problems of Drug Dependence; she is an elected fellow of CPDD and current director. She has served as reviewer of numerous scientific journals; She has served as reviewer on multiple NIH study sections. Dr. Sigmon's work has had a powerful impact on the State of Vermont: For over 15 years, Dr. Sigmon has served as the director of Vermont's first and largest opioid treatment clinic, the Chittenden Clinic; she has overseen 60 staff members, who have cared for more than 1,000 patients. The UVM center on rural addiction, or CORA, is one of three national Rural Centers of Excellence on Substance Use Disorders. Dr. Sigmon and the UVM CORA have had a deep impact on the rest of the country, as CORA has supported >35,000 rural healthcare providers in 50 states and provided >930 continuing medical education (CME) credits. Her scholarship on

substance use and addictive disorders extends far beyond UVM's academic walls, improving the lives of hundreds of patients and their families.

Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative Arts:

- **Professor [Antonio Cepeda-Benito](#)**, Department of Psychological Science, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Cepeda-Benito is an internationally recognized psychological scientist whose scholarship spans basic and translational research in addiction science and health behavior, psychopharmacology and behavioral medicine, public health, and cross-cultural assessment. Across a sustained record of highly acclaimed work, he has advanced foundational theory and measurement, built evidence that informs clinical practice, and translated behavioral science into public-health relevance across diverse populations. His contributions include influential experimental and human laboratory studies on craving, nicotine dependence, and smoking cessation; meta-analytic work that continues to shape understanding of treatment outcomes (including sex differences in long-term cessation); and high-impact collaborative epidemiological research on tobacco use among vulnerable populations. In eating disorders, body image, and food cravings, he co-developed and validated widely adopted Food Craving Questionnaires (Trait and State), tools now used by researchers and clinicians internationally. His leadership in cross-cultural psychological assessment has established rigorous approaches to measurement equivalence across English- and Spanish-speaking populations, complemented by sustained editorial service on flagship journals and participation on U.S. and international grant review panels. This body of work is reflected in an extensive publication record (83 peer-reviewed journal articles, 10 book chapters, and 3 co-authored books), strong citation impact (h-index 39; more than 6,500 citations), and over \$6M in external funding as PI or co-PI from U.S. federal agencies and international programs. His international eminence is evidenced by prestigious visiting and named professorships in Spain, recognition as a Fulbright Scholar (Chile), and the research networks he has built across countries and disciplines to address addiction, stigma, and public health. He has chaired 12 M.S. theses and 16 Ph.D. dissertations, including three at UVM, and he has published extensively with students and mentees. His mentorship—recognized through multiple teaching and mentoring awards, including a national Award of Excellence in Mentorship from the National Hispanic Science Network—has supported trainees from a wide range of backgrounds and positioned them for successful academic and professional careers. Dr. Cepeda-Benito has strengthened the climate for research, scholarship, and creative activity through visionary academic leadership and institution-building. As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2012–2015), he advanced scholarship across the humanities, social sciences, creative arts, and basic sciences; promoted cross-campus, transdisciplinary initiatives; and led planning for new undergraduate and graduate degree programs. He also established an internship office and significantly expanded high-quality undergraduate internship opportunities, helping students connect classroom learning to research, creative practice, and professional pathways—an enduring contribution to UVM's scholarly mission.

[More information about the University Scholars Awards](#)