

## Faculty Recognition Award Recipients - AY 2022-2023

### 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 each of the four faculty ranks (Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Clinical Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor) receives this honor.

#### The 2023 award recipients are:

- **Assistant Professor Daniel Tobin, Ph.D.**, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Daniel Tobin refers to himself as a rural sociologist whose research focuses on how small- and medium-scale farmers respond to market forces, policy mechanisms, and environmental changes. He brings an international perspective to his teaching based on projects in Peru, Mexico, and Uganda. Tobin focuses on topics of rural and agricultural development through large introductory lectures, graduate courses, and a travel course to Peru in which students partner with a local NGO and contribute to ongoing research. “One of Dr. Tobin’s most outstanding qualities is his ability to push students to think critically, especially when it comes to complex and sensitive topics that often surface in development projects,” said one recent student.
- **Associate Professor Richard Single, Ph.D.**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences  
Richard Single conducts research in statistical genetics, which involves population genetic analyses, comparative genomics, and disease association studies. He also works on program evaluation and medical biostatistics with faculty members in the College of Education and Social Services and the College of Medicine. He is lauded by students for making complex course material understandable through novel, engaging classroom exercises and relating statistics to real-world situations. “Our readings were not just about mathematical concepts but about the mathematicians behind it, and we had animated conversations about current topics on polling and the issues statisticians face,” comments one of Richard Single’s students.
- **Professor Anthony (Tony) D’Amato, Ph.D.**, Director, Forestry Program, Director, UVM Research Forests, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources  
Tony D’Amato is the director of the forestry program at UVM. His research in silviculture and forest ecology focuses on long-term forest dynamics, including how climate change affects forest growth and development. He has published 177 peer-reviewed articles, many of them co-authored by students who he involves in his field work. In 2017 he received the Mollie Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award, New England Society of American Foresters. A recent student wrote: “Tony is more than a leading expert on forest management in an era of global change—he is also an outstanding educator. He lives and breathes his commitment to empower the next generation of foresters and natural resource managers—his students—through a culture of rigor, respect, and mentorship.”
- **Senior Lecturer Lisa Dion, M.S.**, Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences  
Lisa Dion participated in research at Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs and at General Dynamics Electric Boat before arriving at UVM. Dion is a champion of getting girls involved in the male-dominated world of computer coding. She founded the first Girls Who Code chapter in Vermont for which she received the 2020 Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce ATHENA Young Professionals Leadership award. She is also faculty advisor to UVM’s Society of Women in Computer Science (SWiCS). According to one colleague, “Lisa consistently achieves among the best teaching evaluations in the department. Her students give universally positive feedback in all kinds of informal settings as well. She has students lining up to TA for her courses every semester.”

### 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 Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, and the Student Government Association.

#### **The 2023 award recipient is:**

- **Professor Luis Vivanco, Ph.D.**, Chair, Department of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences  
Luis Vivanco is a renowned scholar with dozens of publications including peer-reviewed articles, books, book chapters, reviews, and essays to his credit. His skill in making lessons come alive for students in the classroom was recognized in 2012 when he received the UVM Alumni Association's George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award. In the corridors of the anthropology department in Williams Hall, he is also known for his deep engagement with undergraduates. In the words of one former student, Vivanco "has an incredible ability to connect with his students, and I leave every advising session feeling inspired. He makes things seem possible; he opens opportunities where you thought there was a dead end."

### Outstanding Part-time Faculty Teaching Award

The Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Teaching Award, presented annually, honors and recognizes the teaching contributions of faculty that teaches part-time.

#### **The 2023 award recipient is:**

- **Lecturer II Ryan G. Kriger, J.D.**, Department of Community Development and Applied Economics, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Ryan Kriger, a consumer protection attorney for the Federal Trade Commission, teaches classes on privacy law, consumer protection, and public policy. He aims not only to educate students about the law, but also to provide them with practical skills that will help them to protect themselves in the marketplace and online.

### 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 or school, or university-wide level as a member of committees, governance groups, and advising student organizations or committees.

#### **The 2023 award recipient is:**

- **Senior Lecturer Catherine (Cathy) Paris, Ph.D.**, Department of Plant Biology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Catherine Paris has been intensively involved in curricular reform at UVM. She served as the Faculty Senate President and on the Executive Council for over a decade. She was chair of the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate from 2010–2016, leading the committee during the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative and Incentive-Based Budgeting. She has also been a key player in bringing General Education to UVM; as one review committee member noted, "She has been central to the transformations in the curriculum toward a true general education curriculum for the university." Paris has also been extensively involved in service to the Plant Biology Department. She is recognized widely for her effective leadership style. Her service has been sustained over decades and has substantially impacted UVM.

### President's Distinguished Senior Lecturer and Lecturer Awards

The President's Distinguished Senior Lecturer and Lecturer Awards recognize Senior Lecturers or Lecturers for their outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service.

### **The 2023 award recipient is:**

- **Senior Lecturer Priyantha Wijesinghe, Ph.D.**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Director, Curricular Enrichment, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences  
Priyantha Wijesinghe is recognized as an innovator in the classroom. Her courses integrate varied approaches, including laboratory, analytical, computational, and writing-intensive work. She also employs active learning and project-based learning in the classroom and is a leader on campus in the scholarship on teaching and learning in engineering education. Wijesinghe has a dedicated focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and was instrumental in guiding faculty in CEMS through the transition to remote teaching during COVID. She serves as co-principal investigator on two large grant applications to the National Science Foundation.

### **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 2023 award recipients are:**

- **Professor Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.**, Department of Medicine, Hematology/Oncology Division, and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Larner College of Medicine  
Dr. Cushman is a Professor of Medicine and Pathology and a practicing hematologist at UVMMC. Dr. Cushman's career has exemplified excellent research, collaboration, and service. She is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in the epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases, stroke, and venous thromboembolism. With over 690 published works (including original manuscripts, reviews, guidelines and book chapters), she has been recognized nationally as in the 1 percent of researchers in the field of clinical research. Building on massive longitudinal studies, her major research impacts have included novel insights into the role of inflammation in the etiology of cardiovascular disease, especially among African Americans, the role of the D-dimer coagulation marker on thrombosis risk, and the critical role of blood pressure in explaining populations differences in risk of death from stroke. Dr. Cushman is also celebrated for her significant contributions to the American Heart Association, her service as editor (guest editor, editor-in-chief, associate editor) for multiple internationally recognized journals, her mentoring and promotion of the next generation of scientists, and her limitless dedication to the University of Vermont.
- **Professor Stephen Higgins, Ph.D.**, Vice Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Director, Vermont Center on Behavior and Health, Larner College of Medicine; Department of Psychological Science, College of Arts and Sciences  
Dr. Higgins is the Director of the Vermont Center on Behavior and Health and is the Donaldson Professor in Translational Science in the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychological Science. He is one of the most influential and important leaders in the substance abuse field. His work in contingency management changed an entire field, providing one of the few efficacious clinical interventions to change human behavior (such as reducing smoking and alcohol use). Dr. Higgins has been awarded the top prizes in his field of study. He has also been elected president of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence—the oldest and largest international scientific association on substance use disorders—and of the American Psychological Association's Psychopharmacology and Substance Use division. He was elected Fellow in the International Association of Behavior Analysis and in four American Psychological Association divisions. He has published 448 papers which are highly cited. He served as the Behavioral Pharmacology Editor for the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* and on the editorial boards of numerous peer-reviewed journals in the field of addictions.
- **Professor Gary Stein, Ph.D.**, Chair, Department of Biochemistry, and Surgery, Larner College of Medicine  
Gary Stein is a Professor and Chair of Biochemistry, serving as the Vermont Director of the Northern New England Clinical and Translational Research Network. His work spans the fields of cancer, bone biology,

genetics and epigenetics, pathology, and physiology to reveal new biologic mechanisms that control cellular proliferation and differentiation, especially genetic and epigenetic mechanisms of regulation that are compromised in cancer cells (and also in skeletal disease). His many basic science initiatives are purposefully directed to translate into improved clinical care and outcomes for cancer patients: new methods of early diagnosis, treatment and prevention. He is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has published over 1000 papers and edited 25 books. He has served on the editorial boards of over 25 biomedical journals; has mentored more than 185 graduate students and junior faculty; and has served on regional, national, and international scientific advisory boards which formulate research priorities and policies.

### University Scholars Award

The University Scholars Award recognizes 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 2023 award recipients are:**

##### **Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative Arts:**

- **Professor Terence Cuneo, Ph.D.**, Marsh Chair of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences  
Terence Cuneo is an eminent world-renowned scholar of moral philosophy, metaethics, the philosophy of religion, the philosophy of food, and the philosophy of Thomas Reid. He has written seven books, six with the most prestigious press in philosophy, Oxford University Press. Among his authored books is *The Normative Web*, a groundbreaking book on metaethics that received an honorable mention for the American Philosophical Association Book Prize. He has edited another seven books. In addition, he has published 64 articles and 25 book reviews. He is the elected president of the Society of Christian Philosophers.

##### **Basic and Applied Sciences:**

- **Professor Sarah Heil, Ph.D.**, Department of Psychiatry, Larner College of Medicine; Department of Psychological Science, College of Arts and Sciences  
Sarah Heil is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in addictions research with special expertise in the impact of addictions on perinatal women and their infants. A prolific and highly cited scholar, she has authored or coauthored 132 papers and co-edited one book. Her research has appeared in highly regarded medical journals, including *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA Psychiatry*, *JAMA Network Open*, and *Preventive Medicine*. She has been continuously funded since 2004 by NIH, with \$10 million funding as PI, another \$8 million as co-PI, and an additional \$56 million as co-Investigator. She has been elected Fellow in two American Psychological Association divisions, appointed to the Board of Directors for the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (the oldest and largest international scientific association on substance use disorders), and is a standing member to a Chartered NIH study section. She has served on expert panels on addiction and pregnancy convened by eminent bodies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- **Professor Rory Waterman, Ph.D.**, Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences  
Rory Waterman is an internationally recognized expert in synthetic chemistry, particularly bond formation catalyzed by transition metals. He has authored or coauthored 95 papers, many as first author or corresponding author, and his papers are highly cited. He has been elected Fellow of both the American Institute of Chemists and the American Chemical Society as well as the Royal Society of Chemistry. More significantly, he has been elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was the plenary or keynote speaker in four national and international chemistry conferences. His work has been funded by NSF and other federal and private agencies. He has served on the editorial boards of multiple journals.