Honors

CONVOCATION

2020
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS
- Isabel Hidalgo, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
- Sukhdeep Kaur, College of Business
- Thais Dias, College for Design and Social Inquiry
- Lauren Rahgozar, College of Education
- Nazik Almazova, College of Engineering and Computer Science
- Alyssa Payne, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
- Victoria Falcone, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
- Kenneth Dowling, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARD
- Brandon Yu, College of Engineering and Computer Science

UNIVERSITY CLUB MERIT AWARD
- Sunil Raju, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

WIMBERLY SCHOLAR
- Anne-Catherine Wasser, College for Design and Social Inquiry

PHI KAPPA PHI SCHOLAR
- Riddhi Parsana, College of Engineering and Computer Science

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR
- Jessica Olivier, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
- Xana Kira Nash, College of Business, Allen E. Smith Awardee
- Laura Eugene, College for Design and Social Inquiry
- Kelly Thomas, College of Education
- Tucker Hindle, College of Engineering and Computer Science
- Vineet Reddy, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
- Anastasia Tyulmenkova, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
- Katie Abel, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
- Gary Drotleff, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY SCHOLARS
- Luke Turner, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity
- Casey Tetter, Theta Phi Alpha Sorority

STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR
- Anne-Catherine Wasser, Track & Field
- Hagay Jalon, Soccer

ALUMNI DEGREE OF DIFFERENCE AWARD
- Lisa Wiese, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR
- Waseem Asghar, Assistant Professor, College of Engineering & Computer Science
- Erik Engeberg, Associate Professor, College of Engineering & Computer Science
- Mike Twardowski, Professor, Harbor Branch Research Institute
SCHOLARS OF THE YEAR
Behnaz Ghoraani  Assistant Professor, College of Engineering & Computer Science
Ilaria Serra  Associate Professor, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Allan Barsky  Professor, College for Design and Social Inquiry

EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING
Geraldine Blattner  Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Karen Dye  College of Business
Kevin Lanning  Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Tarsha Jones  Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING
Dorran Glasser  Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Tayler Kung  College of Engineering and Computer Science
Abdula Newman  University Advising Services

DISTINGUISHED MENTOR OF THE YEAR IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Monica Escaleras  College of Business

FINALISTS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED MENTOR OF THE YEAR IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Brian McConnell  Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters
Seth Fallik  College for Design and Social Inquiry
Oscar Curet  College of Engineering and Computer Science
Ashley Kennedy  Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Mahyar Nouri-Shirazi  Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
William Hahn  Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR ENGAGED FACULTY
Cheryl Krause-Parello  Research/Scholarship, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
Melanie Acosta  Service, College of Education
Jacqueline Fewkes  Teaching, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

2020 DISTINGUISHED TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Jennifer Foster  Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine

FINALISTS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Alejandro Sanchez Samper  Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters
Siri Terjesen  College of Business
Allan Barsky  College for Design and Social Inquiry
Jenny Bloom  College of Education
P. Edgar An  College of Engineering and Computer Science
Mark Tunick  Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
Lisa Wiese  Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
Elan Barenholtz  Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Pearls During a Pandemic

Thank you to President Kelly, Provost Danilowicz, Dean Boiselle, members of the administration, fellow faculty members, and the Student Advisory Committee, as I am honored to be this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Teacher of the Year award, representing the College of Medicine. I am a physician, and my specialty is Internal Medicine, a specialty dealing with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of the adult patient. Ironically enough, one such disease, called COVID-19, is preventing us from being able to congregate together in person at the Honors Convocation. While I'm under no pretense that my orally recited speech would be transformative to you in any way, I’m hoping that I can still leave you, as a reader, with some pearls during this pandemic. I should explain that in medical education, we use the word pearl to represent “small bits of free standing, clinically relevant information based on experience or observation. They are part of the vast domain of experience-based medicine and can be helpful in dealing with clinical problems for which controlled data do not exist (1).” I’m constantly bringing up pearls with my students, both for their standardized tests and for clinical practice. I’ll refrain from making the following pearls clinical, but I hope that they’re helpful for you, nonetheless.

My first pearl, which I typically reserve for my most high-achieving students and therefore I think is very applicable to this audience, is to always stay hungry. Not for food (which could also describe me), but for both knowledge and opportunity. This is more than just the trite “work hard” or “do your best” advice that circulates from well-meaning advisors. This pearl, like a natural pearl found in oysters, comes from a place of grit. Your appetite for self-improvement shouldn’t stop with college, graduate school, or even once you land your dream job. You can never stop learning about your field, your classmates, your colleagues, or yourself. If you’re given the opportunity for a research or work project that makes you uncomfortable, take it. It’s often these opportunities that will provide the most growth, both personally and professionally. When I first started here at FAU several years ago, I joined my national academic organization (the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine) and responded to a posting on the list serve asking if anyone was interested in a research project examining characteristics of Internal Medicine clerkships and standardized examination scores. Honestly, I only signed up because it sounded cool, and because the person posting it was from Loyola University, in my hometown of Chicago. Fast forward 5 years and we have recently received word that our work will be published in the premier journal of medical education, Academic Medicine. In addition, that colleague who originally posted to the list serve has now become a Vice Chair of Faculty Development and offered to mentor me within our national organization. Staying hungry to improve my knowledge base and take advantage of any opportunities that might come my way has definitely helped me advance my career and become a better teacher. It also leads to my second pearl however, one that came to mind after telling the Student Advisory Committee a story about the chaos of my home with 3 young children. The Committee then asked me a question along the lines of, “How do you balance it all, being a teacher, scholar, parent… everything?”

My second pearl is that there IS no such thing as balance. This is a good pill to swallow early on in your career, so that you can appropriately manage your expectations. One of my first mentors, the program director of my Internal Medicine residency program, Dr. Suzanne Kraemer, originally shattered my naïve idea of “balance”
when it comes to career, family life, and marriage. A successful female physician, wife, and mother herself, she
gave me the metaphor of a circus performer spinning plates on sticks. Each plate represents an aspect of your life:
career, marriage, children, extended family, etc. You’ll never have all of the plates spinning equally and perfectly
using some “hippie-like” vision (her words, not mine) of putting equal efforts into each area. Instead, these plates
will teeter and spin at different speeds, occasionally slowing down and coming dangerously close to crashing
down, only for you to run to that plate, devote more attention to it at the expense of the other plates, and spin it
faster and faster, in an attempt to get it back up to speed. You’ll continue to move from plate to plate throughout
life, sometimes devoting more attention to your career, and sometimes more attention to family. There’s no
perfect equation for how much time to devote to each area, and therefore, no true balance. A few months after
my third child was born, I had the amazing opportunity to attend a health professions educator course at Harvard
Medical School. It required being in Boston for 10 days in the dead of winter (soon after a blizzard) as well as
another 5 days a few months later. While it was extremely difficult to be away from my family for so long, I had
a LOT of help, and was able to attend this amazing professional development conference that was so formative
for my career. This leads to my final pearl…

Don’t be afraid to ask for help, and remember to then thank those people who have helped you along the way.
My mother, who has believed in me from the start, was a single mom who at one point worked 2 jobs, 7 days
a week just so me and my two siblings could survive. As soon as we were financially able, my husband and I
asked her to retire early and move down to Florida to live with us and help us with our kids. She now spends
her days playing tennis, attending book clubs, enjoying the sunshine, and she picks my kids up from school
so that I can work full-time, not worrying about where my kids are or who’s taking care of them. I’d never be
where I am now without her. So, Mom, thank you. My husband is another one of these people. I will slyly
add a bonus pearl in here and advise you to choose a partner who’s just that – an equal, a true partner, someone
who makes you want to be the best version of yourself, who believes in you more than you believe in yourself;
a true “ride or die.” That’s what my husband is for me. When my career plate demands a bit more spinning,
my husband is willing to step in, change diapers, help with homework, and cook dinner… and he never makes
me feel guilty about any of this. So, Keith, thank you, I love you so much! I’ve also been blessed to have several
mentors throughout my career, people I look up to as titans in Internal Medicine, medical education, and medical
research. So, to Drs. Suzanne Kraemer, Jose Muniz, Darby Sider, Stuart Markowitz, Joanna Drowos, Sarah Wood,
and Charles Hennekens, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, as this award belongs as much to all of you as it
does to me.

I regret that I can’t deliver this speech in front of you all due to the current pandemic, but I think we can all use
this socially distanced time to reflect on these pearls. What are you hungry for? Study that topic or dive into that
research project, as safely as you can right now, to feed your personal and professional growth. What plates are
in danger of falling at the moment? Maybe you can devote a bit of attention to that area, whether it be career,
family, or specific relationships, to keep them spinning. And finally, who has helped you get to this point? You
may not be able to visit them face to face, but connect with them, and thank them. To that end, I’d like to thank
my colleagues at the College of Medicine who inspire me every day and make our work fun. I’d also like to thank
my students, for nominating me for this award. I am so grateful for the opportunity to help you turn your grit
into pearls on your journey to becoming a physician.

References:
S.E. WIMBERLY SCHOLARS

1971  Ina K. Tresca
1972  Rhoderick Grimes-Graeme
1973  Lee E. Harris
1974  Shirley R. Huskey
1975  Sandra G. Vinkemulder
1976  Maria Jasiri
1977  Jerry Gibbs
1978  Randall S. Cummins
1979  John R. Toscano
1980  Helga E. Rippen
1981  Gail A. Warner
1982  Wayne T. Moor
1983  Carol Grochowiak
1984  Joan Bradley
1985  Patricia L. Brown
1986  May Ling Ooi
1987  Vi K. Yu
1988  Mary Jo Aloia
1989  Brian S. Polner
1990  Houman Dehghan
1991  David G. Birkle
1992  Jeanne D. Wershoven
1993  Jennifer A. Groceman
1994  Serrin J. Anderson
1995  Anna Goodman
1996  Martin Panevsky
1997  Joseph Sarlo
1998  Zahra S. Hazari
1999  Holly E. Page
2000  Matthew Grace
2001  Justin Smith
2002  Don D. Snedden
2003  Diane Arcuri
2004  Tim Yehezkely
2005  Michelle Pelletier
2006  Alex Opritsa
2007  Eric Seymour
2008  Robert Jividen
2009  Tegan Lavoie
2010  Valerie Cannon
2011  Shaina Rowell
2012  Christopher Ohanian
2013  Noor Fawzy
2014  Megan Geiger
2015  Rachel Turn
2016  Sean Reyka
2017  Kristen Medley
2018  Christy Folk
2019  Jeffrey Coltman-Cormier

PHI KAPPA PHI SCHOLARS

1977  Mark A. Messiter
1978  Connie S. Jones
1979  William Benedicks, Jr.
1980  Leslie A. Milbery
1981  Donna M. Koegler
1982  Neil G. Chang
1983  Julia Breitfelder
1984  Elizabeth Handal
1985  John R. Hickman
1986  Victoria Johnson
1987  Barbara C. Lamb
1988  Judy A. Harris
1989  Carol W. Shade
1990  Richard Acosta
1991  Alan B. Caullett
1992  Celia Mazza
1993  Jennifer Smith
1994  Gloria Kesten
1995  Reut Ben-Zeev
1996  Randall Browning
1997  Callie Buchannan
1998  Laura J. Martel
1999  Reut Ben-Zeev
2000  Sharon R. Arias
2001  Elaine Turner

1971  Ina K. Tresca  College of Humanities
1972  Rhoderick Grimes-Graeme  College of Engineering
1973  Lee E. Harris  College of Engineering
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1991  David G. Birkle  College of Engineering
1992  Jeanne D. Wershoven  College of Social Science
1993  Jennifer A. Groceman  College of Engineering
1994  Serrin J. Anderson  College of Liberal Arts
1995  Anna Goodman  College of Science
1996  Martin Panevsky  College of Science
1997  Joseph Sarlo  Dorothy F. Schmidt  College of Arts and Letters
1998  Zahra S. Hazari  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Social Science
1999  Holly E. Page  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2000  Matthew Grace  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2001  Justin Smith  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2002  Don D. Snedden  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2003  Diane Arcuri  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2004  Tim Yehezkely  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2005  Michelle Pelletier  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2006  Alex Opritsa  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2007  Eric Seymour  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2008  Robert Jividen  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2009  Tegan Lavoie  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2010  Valerie Cannon  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2011  Shaina Rowell  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2012  Christopher Ohanian  Dorothy F. Schmidt  College of Arts and Letters
2013  Noor Fawzy  Dorothy F. Schmidt  College of Arts and Letters
2014  Megan Geiger  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2015  Rachel Turn  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2016  Sean Reyka  College of Business
2017  Kristen Medley  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2018  Christy Folk  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2019  Jeffrey Coltman-Cormier  Dorothy F. Schmidt  College of Arts and Letters

1977  Mark A. Messiter  College of Science
1978  Connie S. Jones  College of Humanities
1979  William Benedicks, Jr.  College of Social Science
1980  Leslie A. Milbery  College of Humanities
1981  Donna M. Koegler  College of Social Science
1982  Neil G. Chang  College of Humanities
1983  Julia Breitfelder  College of Business and Public Administration
1984  Elizabeth Handal  College of Science
1985  John R. Hickman  College of Science
1986  Victoria Johnson  College of Engineering
1987  Barbara C. Lamb  College of Science
1988  Judy A. Harris  College of Humanities
1989  Carol W. Shade  College of Business
1990  Richard Acosta  College of Education
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1999  Reut Ben-Zeev  Harriet L. Wilkes  Honors College
2000  Sharon R. Arias  College of Business
2001  Elaine Turner  College of Business
PHI KAPPA PHI SCHOLARS (continued)

Valerie Mazza  College of Education
2002  Heidi Guthrie  College of Business
       David LoSchiavo  College of Arts and Letters
2003  Andrew Cosgreave  College of Business
       Niveen Yaseen  College of Science
2004  Giovana Milaneze  College of Business
       Ari Rosenberg  College of Science
2005  Morgan Cable  Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
       Elizabeth Quinn  College of Science
2006  Alecia Wachtstetter  College of Business
2007  Lorraine Fuhrman  College of Science
2008  Ximena Tavares  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
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2010  Yandi Lu  College of Science
2011  Joshua Scholl  College of Science
2012  David Hartmann  College of Engineering and Computer Science
2013  Juan Ramirez  College of Engineering and Computer Science
2014  Tara Wengert  College of Business
2015  Matthieu Burtez  College of Business
2016  Washington Garcia  College of Engineering and Computer Science
2017  Lucia DeSanto  College of Business
2018  Lisandre Meyer  College of Engineering and Computer Science
2019  Christy LaFlamme  Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College
1986  Lynn M. Appleton  College of Social Science
1987  Karl K. Stevens  College of Engineering
1988  Clay Steinman  College of Humanities
1989  D.V. Reddy  College of Engineering
1990  Heather T. Frazer  College of Arts and Humanities
1991  Sara Ashworth  College of Education
1992  Raymond A. Mohl  College of Arts and Humanities
1993  Raymond F. McAllister  College of Engineering
1994  Robin G. Jordan  College of Science
1995  Jill Winland-Brown  College of Nursing
1996  Luc T. Wille  College of Science
1997  Neal Coulter  College of Engineering
1998  Paul Guglielmino  College of Business
1999  Not awarded
2000  Jane Brady Matanzo  College of Education
2001  Jane Caputi  Dorothy F. Schmidt  College of Arts and Letters
2002  John Neumeier  Charles E. Schmidt  College of Science
2003  Eileen Ariza  College of Education
2004  Deborah Raines  Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
2005  Daniel Raviv  College of Engineering and Computer Science
2006  Robert Watson  Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
2007  Kathryn Keller  Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
2008  Rose Sherman  Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
2009  Eric Chiang  College of Business
2010  Sameer Hinduja  College for Design and Social Inquiry
2011  Deborah L. Floyd  College of Education
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2014  Daniel Meeroff  College of Engineering and Computer Science
2015  Javad Hashemi  College of Engineering and Computer Science
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1969  Douglas S. Gatlin  College of Social Science
1970  William Tessin  College of Engineering
1971  Michael D. Schwartz  College of Social Science
1972  Edward W. Ziegler  College of Education
1973  Walter R. Courtenay, Jr.  College of Science
1974  Roger A. Mesenger  College of Engineering
1975  Willy J. Feuerlein  College of Social Science
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