



At the Dietrich School, enhancing the undergraduate educational experience is a priority we re-commit ourselves to every day. I have the gratifying opportunity to witness that commitment in action as it manifests in countless ways, from faculty in the classroom inspiring a life-long love of learning, to staff advisors and mentors guiding students toward the courses, majors and experiential activities that will best prepare them for post-graduation success.

Our students' personal and academic well-being is at the heart of every decision we make, and I am sure I speak for all of us when I say there is nothing more rewarding than seeing our undergraduates achieve their goals and reach their potential, knowing that we have played a role in their accomplishments.

This year, the Dietrich School and the College of General Studies are introducing several new awards for graduating seniors who have made significant contributions both within and beyond the classroom. The awards were developed by a committee of staff members under the leadership of Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and the College of General Studies, John Twyning. Their charge was to establish a series of School- and College-level honors—complementing the University's annual Emma W. Locke and Omicron Delta Kappa Senior of the Year awards—that would shine a spotlight on exemplary graduating seniors from both the Dietrich School and College of General Studies.

I am grateful to Associate Dean Twyning for his leadership with this initiative and to committee members Ingrid Beute, Bianca DeJesus, Maryellen Gannon, Jessica Hatherill, Jessica Lutz, Patrick Mullen, Mary Napoli, Angela Petsis, Sim Saunders, and James Scott for their efforts.

The new slate of awards is as follows:

Dietrich School

Deans' Scholars

- Purpose: To recognize Dietrich School seniors who exemplify high scholarship, character, and devotion to the ideals of the University of Pittsburgh.

Perseverance Award

- Purpose: To recognize Dietrich School seniors who have overcome barriers and shown strength of character and resiliency in their academic and personal pursuits.

Service Award

- Purpose: To recognize the extraordinary impact Dietrich School seniors have on the success of their peers, the Dietrich School, and the broader community.

College of General Studies

Student of the Year Award

- Purpose: To recognize a CGS senior who exemplifies high scholarship, character, and devotion to the ideals of the University of Pittsburgh.

Perseverance Award

- Purpose: To recognize CGS seniors who have overcome barriers and shown strength of character and resiliency in their academic and personal pursuits.

Service Award

- Purpose: To recognize the extraordinary impact CGS seniors have on their peers and within the greater Pittsburgh community.

Nominations for all these awards should be submitted to Maryellen Gannon at mhg19@pitt.edu and are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022. Nomination criteria is available on the [Dietrich School's](#) and [College of General Studies'](#) websites.

Finally, I would like to highlight several faculty and staff who have recently been honored by the school for their exceptional teaching and advising.

As you know, the Dietrich School annually recognizes outstanding faculty and staff academic advising of its undergraduate students with the Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising.

Before 2020, awardees were celebrated at a reception, but because of the pandemic, the 2020 program was canceled. We will honor the 2020 and 2022 Ampco-Pittsburgh winners later this year, and until then, I'm delighted to present our honorees:

Ampco-Pittsburgh 2020 Winners

Frayda Cohen, Senior Lecturer, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Undergraduate Advisor, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program

Barbara "Babs" Mowery, Academic Advisor, Advising Center

Ampco-Pittsburgh 2022 Winners

Danielle Andrews-Brown, Lecturer and Environmental Studies Program Coordinator, Undergraduate Advisor, Assistant Dean and Academic Integrity Officer, Geology and Environmental Science

Emily Snyder, Academic Advisor, Advising Center

In addition to the Ampco-Pittsburgh Awards for Excellence in Advising, the school honors innovative undergraduate instruction each year with the Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Awards. Before 2020, the Bellet Awardees were celebrated with a dinner, but as with the Ampco-Pittsburgh Awards, the 2020 ceremony was canceled. We plan to return to an in-person Bellet Awards dinner later this spring, and during that occasion we will spotlight the winners from 2020 and 2022:

Tina and David Bellet Award 2020 Winner

Erica McGreevy, Lecturer II, Biological Sciences

Tina and David Bellet Award 2022 Winners

Jennifer Laaser, Assistant Professor, Chemistry

Dana Och, Senior Lecturer, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Film
Studies

Ellen Smith, Senior Lecturer, English

Please join me in congratulating these deserving colleagues.