



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

*The College of Arts & Sciences is excited to present
the*

SUJACK AWARD CEREMONY

honoring our awardees of

2022

*Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching
Excellence and Master Teacher awards*

&

*Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence
and Master Researcher awards*



PROGRAM

<i>Welcome:</i>	<i>Peter J. Schraeder, PhD Professor and Dean</i>
<i>Opening comments:</i>	<i>Don Sujack</i>
<i>Introduction of President's Video</i>	<i>Peter Schraeder, PhD Professor and Dean</i>
<i>Introduction of 2022 Teaching Awards:</i>	<i>Elizabeth Wakefield, PhD 2022 Teaching committee Member</i>
<i>Introduction of 2022 Research Awards:</i>	<i>Eric Chan-Tin, PhD 2022 Research committee Chairperson</i>
<i>Closing remarks:</i>	<i>Peter J. Schraeder, PhD Professor and Dean</i>

Congratulations to all our 2022 Award winners



2022 SUJACK AWARD WINNERS

2022 Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence

[Kelly Howe](#), Associate Professor, Theatre

[Robert McNees](#), Associate Professor, Physics

2022 Master Teachers

[Daniel Cavanaugh](#), Associate Professor, Biology

[Hong Chen](#), Senior Lecturer, Modern Languages & Literatures

[Margaret Guy](#), Assistant Professor, Psychology

[Shauna Price](#), Lecturer, Biology

2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence

[Christine Li-Gringing](#), Associate Professor, Psychology

[Molly Melin](#), Associate Professor, Political Science

2022 Master Researchers

[Vincent Chen](#), Assistant Professor, Engineering

[Catherine Nichols](#), Advanced Lecture, Anthropology

[Zoe Smith](#), Assistant Professor, Psychology

[Jayme Stayer](#), Associate Professor, English



Statements from our Teaching and Research Award committees about our 2022 SUJACK AWARD WINNERS

Kelly Howe - 2022 Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence Top Award

Kelly Howe is an Associate Professor of Theatre in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and English from Muhlenberg College and earned her doctorate at The University of Texas at Austin in Theatre History and Criticism. Howe has been a faculty member at Loyola since 2015.

Among many highly qualified faculty members who were nominated for the Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence this year, Howe stood out to the award committee. Howe has taught an impressive breadth of courses, from an introductory theatre course to writing-intensive upper-level courses about theatre history and literature. Regardless of the level, she has consistently earned top course and instructor ratings and is described by students as ‘the people’s professor’ because of her deep care and commitment to their well-being. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, Howe organized her courses to support students. In her own words, in redesigning courses over the past two years she has “*prioritized students doing what they needed to do to make it through this moment alive, as safe and well as possible, and still enjoying learning.*” Moreover, it is clear from student evaluations that she has fostered this enjoyment of learning in them, despite the difficulties of online learning and the many challenges faced during the pandemic.

In addition to her care for her students, Howe places an emphasis on social justice within and outside the classroom. As a student who has taken courses with Howe states, “*She is very aware of bias and social justice issues, and incorporates this into many of her lessons...[she] reminds us that the information available on [theatrical practices in textbooks] is often underrepresented and not all-inclusive. She really helps students develop a global awareness of the things she teaches.*” Outside the classroom, Howe is the chair of the Loyola Theatre’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and the Founding Facilitator of the Dramaturgy and Social Justice Working Group (2015-present). The latter provides a space for students to consider how theatre can be used to create a more just world, engages students in conversations about DEI issues in theatre, and supports their professional development.



Finally, on top of classroom teaching and serving in various roles supporting social justice initiatives, Howe finds time to work one-on-one with students as a faculty mentor. She works with students on independent studies and internships, performance projects, and supervises student dramaturgs. Taken together, Kelly Howe has distinguished herself as an excellent educator, and we are happy to recognize Dr. Howe as one of the recipients of the 2022 Edwin T. and Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence.

Robert McNeas - 2022 Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence Top Award

Dr. McNeas received his PhD from the University of Texas and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics which he joined in 2009. During his time at Loyola, he has taught 10 classes.

One measure of Dr. McNeas commitment and skill in the classroom is the number times he has been nominated for various teaching awards during his time at Loyola. He has been nominated for

- Ignatius Loyola Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2014, 2022
- Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching Freshman, 2014
- Sujack Teaching Award, 2022

He was also recognized as a Sujack Master Teacher in 2014.

What stood out to the committee was how Dr. McNeas recognized that students from larger physics programs had a competitive advantage when pursuing graduate school opportunities in special and general relativity. By creating a two-semester independent study sequence, he created opportunities for interested Loyola physics majors.

The awards committee was tasked with examining the nominees teaching performance over the last 3 years. Instructors during this period have had to reinvent themselves and their classes for the move to online. Dr. McNeas guiding principle in his own words “ has been [to build] flexibility in every aspect of the course, so I can meet students where they are. Effectively dealing with this has meant giving [students] options, respecting their individual circumstances, and making it clear that we can find a way to work around any obstacle.” This kind of care for the whole person is in strong alignment with Loyola University's core values.

The excerpt from the nomination says it all to me “I was never one to like or be good at physics and Dr. McNeas made me excited to go to class”. His ability to spark and nurture interest in the material he teaches is the hallmark of great teacher.



Daniel Cavanaugh - 2022 Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence – Master Teacher

Dr. Cavanaugh received his PhD from the University of California and joined Loyola's Department of Biology in 2015 where he is now an Associate Professor. During his time at Loyola, he has taught 9 classes ranging from small guided reading and research groups to 100+ student classes for some the introductory level biology classes.

What really stood out in Dr. Cavanaugh's nomination packet was his ability to seemingly be everywhere at the same time. Since joining Loyola over 30 undergraduate students have been part of his lab many publishing and presenting their research on their way to graduate school. These kinds of achievements have been clearly recognized in the past as Dr. Cavanaugh was the recipient of the Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence in 2020.

This recognition is for the work Dr. Cavanaugh has done as a teacher and mentor. His student evaluations scores were exceptional, regardless of the size of the class. As the nomination letter from one his students stated "Whether it be in a course or in a more casual one-on-one or small group meeting, they teach in a way that is easy to understand conceptually, seamlessly connects with practical applications in real life, and expertly handles going into the appropriate amount of detail based on the context of the situation and level of understanding and training of the listener, all in an engaging and adept manner."

As a mentor Dr. Cavanaugh's impact is best described in the words of one his students, "Dr. Cavanaugh really takes the time to meet with his students, especially those in his lab, individually to get to know us, guide and offer us advice on our academics, careers, future plans,... turn, fosters further learning and growth academically, personally, and career-wise because everyone feels safe to ask questions, contribute their own thoughts and opinions, and knows there is always a mentor to turn to for expert help and support". This level of commitment to our student body is inspiring.

Hong Chen - 2022 Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence – Master Teacher

Hong Chen is a senior Chinese lecturer and Director of the Chinese Language & Culture program in Loyola University Chicago. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from Lanzhou University, B.A. in English and Linguistics, and both a Bachelor and Master of Science in Computer Science from the University of North Dakota. She has been teaching at Loyola since 2007, and her teaching contributions and achievements have ranged from responding to a growing interest of LUC students to learn the Chinese language, to expanding diversity and comprehension of Chinese cultural studies through dynamic and effective courses.



With an outstanding pedagogical ability for student recruitment and retention, Hong Chen has managed to build a diverse academic environment for Chinese students at Loyola. Her wide course offerings have led the Chinese program to expand greatly since its inauguration. For example, Chen's course Business Chinese (CHIN 190) looks to expand knowledge in business formalities, vocabulary, and language peculiarities in China. This gives students a competitive advantage in their future endeavors and a closer look at one of the world's largest growing economies. Other introductory courses like China Through Literature and Film (UCLR 100) have exposed first-year students to topics unknown, sparking new interests and understanding through distinctive and challenging coursework. A student of Chen lǎoshī stated: *"My basic understanding of China's history and past was all very surface level, and this course helped me to expand knowledge of cultural changes that China has gone through in just the 20th century to now."* The Committee was struck by Chen's creative and interdisciplinary thinking in her courses. Outside the classroom, Hong Chen's work continues. She hosted a multi-university Chinese speech contest with over 50 participants in which she helped train our Rambler attendees. Professor Chen also established the Chinese Language Club at Loyola and has worked to forge study-abroad connections for Chinese students. Her broad focus on student events like the *Chinese Culture Night*, the *Moon Festival at Loyola*, and *Chinese Calligraphy demonstrations* have allowed Hong Chen to truly connect with students and expand her Program.

These were enough reasons to find in Hong's work the true spirit and values that a Jesuit education should forge. Consequently, the Sujack Teaching Award Committee is proud to honor Professor Hong Chen with a 2022 Sujack Master Teacher Award.

Margaret Guy - 2022 Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence – Master Teacher

Congratulations to **Dr. Margaret Guy** for being named a 2022 Master Teacher. Dr. Guy received her PhD from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2014. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of South Carolina, she came to Loyola in 2017. Here at Loyola, Dr. Guy is the Director of the Cognitive Development Laboratory, and Co-Director of the Center for Research in Child Development. The Sujack Committee was thoroughly impressed with Dr. Guy's commitment to students in an out of the classroom, especially throughout a global pandemic that presented tremendous challenges to engaging students in lab-based research.



In the classroom, Dr. Guy receives consistently high course ratings. Of note is her course in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, which she designed from the ground up for Loyola. Outside the classroom, Dr. Guy regularly mentors, presents, and publishes with her undergraduate students. She has mentored over twenty-five students in her lab, where they “receive training in pediatric EEG research, attend weekly lab meetings, and get hands on experience with lab participants.”

Her careful mentorship leads to concrete and impressive outcomes for her students: a Provost Fellowship, several capstone projects, an honors thesis, a Carbon Fellowship, and the 2020 Outstanding Neuroscience Senior Award.

Dr. Guy also makes a personal connection with her students, exemplifying a pedagogy based in *cura personalis*. The student who nominated her describes a classroom experience with Dr. Guy as follows:

I decided to take Dr. Margaret Guy’s PSYC 273 Developmental Psychology class. As a psychology major, I always expected to learn about mental illnesses or different experiments. However, Dr. Guy thought that it was way more than that...Her way of connecting with the class reminded me that while there was turmoil and death during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was also life growing.

We need more teachers like Dr. Guy, teachers who are committed to mentoring students and showing them that there is indeed ‘life growing,’ that there is hope for a future, even (and especially) during difficult times.

For all these reasons and more, the Sujack Teaching committee is proud to honor Dr. Guy with a 2022 Master Teacher Award.

Shauna Price - 2022 Edwin T. & Vivijeanne F. Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence – Master Teacher

The Sujack Award Committee is pleased to congratulate **Shauna Price** on being named a 2022 Master Teacher. Dr. Price received her PhD from UCLA in 2011, and joined Loyola University in 2018 first as an Instructor in the Department of Biology, then, since 2020, as a Biology Lecturer. The Committee was particularly impressed by the attentiveness Dr. Price has shown to Loyola students that has allowed her to make personal connections with her students despite a significant portion of her four years here being marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Price has worked extensively with first year students in the four courses and three labs that she has taught, and is aware of the particular support these students need as they transition to a university environment. From small actions like using hand-drawn diagrams after noticing they are helpful to student accessibility, to more formal practices like administering surveys throughout the semester to give all students an opportunity for their voices to be heard, Dr. Price shows an incredible care for the student experience in her classroom, and strives to be attentive to every student's needs even in large class settings. Dr. Price has also shown great effort to be involved extra-circularly despite limited opportunities to do so, taking the chances that she has been offered to be involved with student organizations and outreach, as well as staying connected to her first-year students throughout their academic careers, showing a care for students and their activities outside of her classroom. The nomination letter for Dr. Price described her, "relaxed, welcoming, and enthusiastic personality" that promoted "a sense of comfort," and made for an "enjoyable" and "memorable" experience. Students clearly feel and appreciate Dr. Price's commitment which is not just professional, but personal, in a time when teacher-student relationships have been more challenging but all the more valuable to form.

With the exemplary energy and personal commitment to students that Dr. Price has already shown in her few years here, the Award Committee believes that this is just the beginning of her great work here at Loyola, and is pleased to recognize her as a Master Teacher.

Christine Li-Grining - *2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence*

We honor **Dr. Christine Li-Grining**, Associate Professor of Psychology, for her work on self-regulation, resilience and academic achievement in low-income children and adolescents. Dr. Li-Grining's research, which is supported by a Spencer Foundation Grant, has resulted in 5 peer-reviewed articles in high-quality refereed journals in the past year. These papers assess the relationship between social-emotional competencies, academic success and educational aspirations, and generate concrete strategies for improving education outcomes in low-income and minoritized populations. Dr. Li-Grining has also been integral in efforts to increase racial equity and inclusion at Loyola, which culminated this past year with being awarded an ADVANCE Grant from the National Science Foundation, which provides nearly \$1 million over 3 years to support programs that enhance faculty diversity. For these many accomplishments, we are thrilled to recognize Dr. Li-Grining with the 2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence.



Molly Melin - 2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence

Dr. Molly Melin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Melin's specialty area is in international relations and foreign policy decision-making. Dr. Melin looks at the role of the private sector in preventing international conflicts. In 2021, Dr. Melin published a single-author book "The Building and Breaking of Peace: Corporate Activities in Civil War Prevention and Resolution" with the Oxford University Press. The Oxford University Press is among the top ranked presses for Political Science. The book looks at political violence, conflict resolutions, and corporate responsibility. More specifically, Dr. Melin seeks to answer the following questions: what are the conditions for corporations to become involved in peace-building efforts? Is corporate involvement helpful for establishing and maintaining peace? Dr. Melin's research design included rigorous surveys, experiments, and in-person interviews. The published book is interdisciplinary and advances the field in both theory and practice in the disciplines of political science and business. Moreover, Dr. Melin has been invited to present the book to the academic community to venues internationally. This shows the impact that the book will have in the field of both political science and business. Dr. Melin is a highly successful researcher at Loyola University Chicago. Today we honor Dr. Molly Melin with the Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence.

Vincent Chen - 2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence – Master Researcher

Dr. Vincent Chen is recognized as a Master Researcher for his work on neurorehabilitation. Dr. Chen's research stands at the interface of engineering and neuroscience and involves the development and use of biomedical devices to enhance sensory and motor function following nervous system injury. In 2022, he was awarded a CAREER award from the National Science Foundation (NSF), which will provide \$500,540 over 5 years to support an investigation into optimizing parameters of electrical stimulation of central and peripheral nerves to support neuroplasticity in the face of injury. The CAREER award is noted as one of "NSF's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty" and includes an explicit focus on training future scientists in research and education. In addition to this award, Dr. Chen also co-authored 5 peer-reviewed research articles in the past year. Based on these impressive achievements, the committee is pleased to name Dr. Chen a Sujack Master Researcher.



Catherine Nichols - 2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence – Master Researcher

Dr. Catherine Nichols is an Advanced Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology. In 2021, Dr. Nichols published a book "Exchanging Objects: Nineteenth-Century Museum Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution" with Berghahn Books, which is one of the premier publishers in the area of museum studies. Dr. Nichols also published a book chapter and two peer-reviewed articles last year. The book looks at how objects are catalogued and documented at the Smithsonian Institute and how museum should re-examine themselves about how objects move and are acquired. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Nichols on this Master Researcher Award!

Zoe Smith - 2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence – Master Researcher

We are delighted to recognize Dr. Zoe Smith with a Master Researcher Award. Dr. Smith joined the Department of Psychology in 2021 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Smith received a career development grant from Robert Wood Johnson Health Equity Scholars for Action. The grant will allow Dr. Smith to study the healthcare disparities in Black and Latina/e/o/x adolescents with ADHD. Dr. Smith has also published five articles last year and received multiple international awards such as the "Most Cited Paper Award". The Sujack research committee agrees with the nomination letter that Dr. Smith is "truly a rising star". Please join us in congratulating Dr. Smith on this award.

Jayme Stayer - 2022 Sujack Family Award for Faculty Research Excellence – Master Researcher

Dr. Jayme Stayer, associate professor in the Department of English, is recognized as a Master Researcher for the monograph *Becoming T. S. Eliot: The Rhetoric of Voice and Audience in "Inventions of the March Hare,"* published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Dr. Stayer's remarkably insightful work traces Eliot's development as a poet through a close reading of a poetry notebook kept by Eliot during his early years. According to Dr. Stayer's nominating letter, the monograph "combines a fine sensitivity to poetry with critical sophistication and a careful attention to rhetoric; it is also written in the lively, eminently readable style that is characteristic of Dr. Stayer," and an early reviewer states that it is "the best book on Eliot I've read in over a decade." For this important contribution, we are delighted to name Dr. Stayer a Sujack Master Researcher.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the 2022 Sujack Teaching and Research Award selection committee members listed below for their efforts on helping to choose this year's winners:

2022 Sujack Teaching committee members

Gajan Sivandran, Engineering, Committee Chairperson

Joseph Vukov, Philosophy

Elizabeth Wakefield, Psychology

Carlos Bueso, student member, Computer Science major

Emma Mitchell, student member, Religious Studies major

2022 Sujack Research committee members

Eric Chan-Tin, Computer Science, Committee Chairperson

Daniel Cavanaugh, Biology

Meghan Condon, Political Science

Additional thanks to Monica Ramos in the College of Arts and Sciences Deans office for her work on compiling the videos submitted by our students who nominated our faculty teaching award winners.

Finally, we want to show our appreciation and gratitude to the Sujack family members Don and Peg Sujack, Steve and Reenie Sujack, Greg and Kate Sujack and Julie Sujack for their continued support of the annual Edwin T. and Vivijeanne F. Sujack awards. We are honored to have some of your family joining us this evening and look forward to celebrating again with you all again next year.

