

## Faculty Recognition Award Recipients AY 2023–2024

### 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 AY 2023–2024 award recipients are:

- **Lecturer Glenn Levine-West, Ph.D.**, Program in German, Russian, and Hebrew, School of World Languages and Cultures, College of Arts and Sciences  
Glenn Levine-West's research interests are applied linguistics, foreign language pedagogy, language program direction, multilingualism, sociolinguistics, Germanic linguistics, Yiddish language and literature, and German-Jewish literature. His students describe him as very passionate and one of the most dedicated professors to helping students understand the materials they are learning. He is a good communicator with great classroom management and excellent teaching skills, and he clearly makes an effort to create an engaging, inclusive, safe, and encouraging classroom.
- **Assistant Professor Nicole Conroy, Ph.D.**, Department of Counseling, Human Development and Family Science, College of Education and Social Services  
Nicole Conroy's research and teaching center on the contextual and transactional nature of human development and relationships, with a focus on strengths-based perspectives to promote positive development and healthy relationships. She has taught courses on power and interpersonal violence, human sexuality, research methods, family theories, and human development, and contributes to several community-engaged learning opportunities for students. According to one colleague, "Nicole's record of teaching is exemplary and consistently receives some of the highest teaching evaluation scores in the department. The quality of her teaching far exceeds the standards set forth by UVM and over 1,650 students have been fortunate enough to engage in her classes."
- **Associate Professor Kate Nolfi, Ph.D.**, Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences  
Kate Nolfi's primary research interests lie at the intersection of epistemology, metaethics, and the philosophy of mind. Her research investigates these questions together, as inextricably interrelated and mutually informative. 1) What are beliefs? 2) What does it take to have beliefs that are justified, or to believe rationally? and, 3) Why should we care about whether our beliefs are justified, or whether we believe in ways that are rational? In the words of a former student, "Dr. Nolfi is a fantastic professor, and I am incredibly grateful to have learned from her. She taught the class in an instructional yet conversational manner that encouraged engagement and active participation. She frequently asked for feedback, which I appreciated since it meant she was genuinely concerned with teaching us in the most effective way possible."
- **Professor Tyler Doggett, Ph.D.**, Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences  
Tyler Doggett is most interested in ethics, philosophy of mind, early modern philosophy, and metaphysics. He primarily teaches ethics courses, including courses on altruism, food ethics, parenting ethics, and the ethics of killing various things. A recent student wrote, "This was an all-around incredible course where I felt encouraged to grow as a learner and a thinker. Tyler's willingness to spend time and go over concepts until there was a collective understanding is highly valuable. I felt challenged by the conversations in class and the readings allowed me to think more deeply about our discussions in class."

### 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 2023–2024 award recipient is:**

- **Assistant Professor Dana Rowangould, Ph.D.**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences  
Dana Rowangould is an excellent teacher and advisor whose research draws from engineering, transportation and land use policy and planning, transportation justice, energy use, transportation accessibility, air quality, and health. She purposefully and thoughtfully connects her students in a way that puts them in a position to succeed. The sense of community and collaborative atmosphere she creates within her research group enhances the educational experience she provides her students with the space and opportunity to succeed. To quote one of her students, "...Dr. Rowangould's attentiveness and willingness to have in-depth and wide-ranging conversations with her students helps us to explore our interests more freely. It is through many of these conversations with Dr. Rowangould that I have been able to more deeply explore my interests in transportation and related fields, and I am fairly certain that many of her other advisees feel the same."

### 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 AY 2023–2024 award recipient is:**

- **Lecturer II Katherine Elmer, M.S.**, Department of Plant and Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Katherine Elmer, a national board-certified health and wellness coach and dedicated instructor and mentor to hundreds of students for over a decade, teaches Herbal Medicine and advises the Student Herbalism Club at the University of Vermont. Katherine supports clients as part of an integrative care team at the UVM Comprehensive Pain Program. Her students have consistently praised her for her knowledge of plants and herbalism, innovative instructional methods, and enthusiasm in the classroom.

### 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 AY 2023–2024 award recipient is:**

- **Associate Professor Stephen Everse, Ph.D.**, Department of Biochemistry, Larner College of Medicine  
Stephen Everse, a member of the UVM faculty since 1998, has consistently made highly significant contributions as a scientist, educator, and architect for expanding institutional capabilities in research competency and capacity. As a scientist, Stephen has made widely recognized contributions to coagulation biology and pathology. As a mentor, he has been highly significant in the Larner College of Medicine's support of biochemistry and academic departments throughout our university. As an educator, he has been instrumental in providing strategies for developing programs that emphasize campus-wide participation. As an active contributor to the university's mission, by his actions and personality Stephen demonstrates that being a good citizen is building trust and creating knowledge and innovation in a friendly, respectful, and collaborative environment.

## 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 AY 2023–2024 award recipient is:**

- **Senior Lecturer Amy Tomas, Ph.D.**, Director of Undergraduate Programs, Grossman School of Business  
Amy Tomas is recognized for tireless service commitments, strong dedication to her work and students, and efforts to improve the Grossman School of Business curriculum. She is an excellent teacher who brings passion and enthusiasm for retail and professional development. Amy's primary research interest includes the impact of significant technological, societal, and competitive changes in the marketing environment on the retailer-consumer dyad. In the words of one of her recent students. "Amy is such a wonderful teacher and does a great job connecting with students! The real-life examples were great and applying it all to the research project is a good assignment. The pace of the class is effective."

## 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 2023–2024 award recipients are:**

- **Professor Pramodita Sharma, Ph.D.**, and Schlesinger-Grossman Chair of Family Business, Grossman School of Business  
Dr. Sharma is an internationally recognized scholar in family business studies and is among the most cited scholars in the area. Her research has transformed our understanding of family business succession, governance, and sustainability efforts. She helped shape the fledging field of family business by serving as the editor of the pioneering and leading academic journal, the *Family Business Review*, from 2008 to 2017. She has also co-authored eleven books. Her leadership of the family business area led to a top 25 global business school ranking for UVM for family business education and research by Family Capital, a London-based publication dedicated to the global family enterprise sector. Dr. Sharma was recently named one of the Top 100 Family Business Influencers by Family Capital. She has been honored with several international awards, including two prestigious lifetime achievement awards: the Barbara Hollander Award of the Family Firm Institute and the Lifetime Influence and Impact Award of the Family Enterprise Research Conference. Dr. Sharma's work embodies the values of Our Common Ground. Her recognition of the value of diverse perspectives on family enterprises permeates throughout her work and through the Schlesinger Global Family Enterprise Case Competition (SG-FECC) that she launched in 2013, the first case competition in the world focused on the unique issues of family enterprises. Dr. Sharma is highly deserving of recognition as a UVM University Distinguished Professor.
- **Professor Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Ph.D.**, Department of Geography and Geosciences, College of Arts and Sciences  
Dr. Dupigny-Giroux is a Professor of Geography and Geosciences and a Vermont State Climatologist. She is an internationally renowned eminent scholar in climate science and climate education. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux is appointed for a 3-year term in the prestigious National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Committee to the U.S. Global Change Research Program. In addition, she has been recently elected to a three-year term in the National Academies Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux is also the immediate past president of the American Association of State Climatologists. She has been a member of the American Meteorological Society's Applied Climatology Committee, a National Councilor of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), has chaired the AAG Climate Specialty Group, and was a member of the NOAA Science Advisory Board Climate Working Group. She has also contributed significantly to the 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessments, being a regional chapter lead for the 4th.

Dr. Dupigny-Giroux is globally known for her widespread academic and social impact through her scholarly contributions to hydroclimatic natural hazards and climate literacy. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux's work embodies the values of Our Common Ground. Throughout her career at UVM since 1997, she has excelled as a scholar, instructor, and ambassador for diversity. She has authored highly impactful papers on climate extremes, geosciences, diversity, and remote sensing, and she recently received the 2018 Association for Women Geoscientists Professional Excellence Award in the Academia/Research category. Her scholarship has attracted a significant amount of extramural funding. She has chaired the International Public Commission and Public Advisory Board and has organized an international NOAA workshop on climate applications. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering, the GUND Institute of Environment, the African Scientific Institute, and the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux highly deserves recognition as a UVM University Distinguished Professor.

- **Professor Kirk Dombrowski, Ph.D.**, Department of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Office of the President  
Before coming to UVM in 2020, Dr. Dombrowski served as Professor of Anthropology and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Dombrowski is a highly productive scholar with over 80 peer-reviewed journal publications and three book manuscripts. He has secured over 30 grant awards and has directed several high-profile research centers. At UVM, under his leadership as Vice President for Research, extramural research has grown considerably, exceeding \$260 million annually, and the University now boasts several new university-wide centers and institutes with more on the horizon. While much of this success is through collaboration with colleagues, Dr. Dombrowski has provided the creativity, collaborative and entrepreneurial drive, and essential support necessary for this rapid transformation. Using his faculty experience as a successful scholar and grant winner, he has restructured the office of Vice President, establishing the Research Development Office and the Office of Engagement. He has transformed the Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA) to provide the much-needed support for pre- and post-award services. He has collaborated with Deans to launch SPA 2.0 and created the first advisory council for College Associate Deans for Research. He uses a data-informed approach to identify unique areas of scholarly excellence and then supports faculty, builds collaborations, and raises their work profile to increase their competitiveness for significant extramural funding. With his energy, guidance, and leadership, UVM has created the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships, the Institute for Agroecology, and the Osher Center for Integrative Health. Under his guidance and leadership, UVM has established new federal partnerships, such as with the USDA, to establish the first new Agricultural Research Station at a university in years. In addition, with his mentorship and support, faculty have secured significant awards like the recent National Science Foundation EPSCoR grant SOCKS (The Science of Online Corpora, Knowledge, and Stories) and funding from the USDA to establish an Agricultural Research Service. In each case, faculty scholarship has been supported to a new level. In each case, our graduate and undergraduate students are engaged in exciting new career-building opportunities. In each case, our community (local, regional, and national) is impacted by the new knowledge research brings, new programming, and services. Dr. Dombrowski highly deserves recognition as a UVM University Distinguished Professor.

## 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 AY 2023–2024 award recipients are:

#### Basic and Applied Sciences:

- **Professor Joshua Bongard, Ph.D.**, Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences

Dr. Bongard is a nationally and internationally recognized expert in machine science and artificial intelligence, with its application to evolutionary robotics. Most impressive is his design of xenobots, living robots made of frog eggs that become programmable cells that perform desired functions. This is pure science fiction come true. He publishes regularly in the most prestigious journals (*Science*, *Nature*, *PNAS*, etc.) and received the 2020 Cozzarelli Prize for the most outstanding PNAS for Engineering and Applied Sciences publication. This is one of the highest recognitions for a publication. He has an H-index of 53 with >12,500 citations. He has a diverse portfolio of funding sources ranging from NAA, NSF, Army, Microsoft, and the Sloan Foundation. It is no surprise that he was awarded the NSF Presidential Career Award. His expertise is sought after by sitting on advisory panels for the NSF and DOE. His unique science has splashed the popular media and, not surprisingly, has attracted numerous trainees at UVM. He sits on multiple editorial boards and is an Associate Editor for various robotics journals. His reach extends way beyond Vermont, but he ensures that Vermont receives his utmost attention through presentations in various local venues, including high schools and middle schools. Dr. Bongard highly deserves the University Scholar designation in the Basic and Applied Sciences category.

- **Professor Christopher Danforth, Ph.D.**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences

Dr. Danforth is an internationally recognized expert in extensive data analysis and complex systems. He co-developed the Complex Systems Graduate Program. His research develops algorithms to predict and understand the intersection between human behavior and social media. He is the co-inventor of the “Hedonometer,” which gathers tweets on X (formerly Twitter) to sample the mood of the world population. Such extensive data analysis has organizations like *Gallup* and *The Economist* asking his advice on issues of the day. Such human behavior and health analysis have attracted support for the Mass Mutual Insurance Center of Excellence in Complex Systems at UVM, funded from 2017–2028. His >110 publications have been cited >8,000 times, with an H-index of 38 in some of the most respected journals. He has been awarded the Kroepsch-Maurice Teaching Award and has numerous trainees. His works have been cited and featured in the popular media, putting UVM on the map. Dr. Danforth highly deserves the University Scholar designation in the Basic and Applied Sciences category.

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

- **Professor Jessica Strolin-Goltzman, Ph.D.**, Department of Education, College of Education and Social Services

Dr. Strolin-Goltzman is highly respected for her scholarship in social work and education, with a particular emphasis on child welfare and mental health in school settings that inform national policy. Her outstanding work has been recognized with significant and continuous federal, state, and local funding, which has amounted to nearly \$20 million. Her academic recognitions include books, book chapters, peer-reviewed manuscripts, empirical articles, technical papers, and professional guidance documents with close to 2,000 citations, a significant achievement in her field. She creates and supports new degree and certificate programs and mentors and guides undergraduate and graduate students. She serves on editorial boards and advisory boards related to child welfare. Her leadership and mentoring of others, the impact of such a meaningful curriculum, and the highest research and design quality all point to the significance of the work for new knowledge generation. Dr. Strolin-Goltzman highly deserves the University Scholar designation in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative Arts category.