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The 2022 Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience Faculty Awards

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<https://doi.org/10.59390/JPOE3730>

Each year, the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN) opens a call for nominations to recognize outstanding contributions to undergraduate education in the neurosciences. These awards are presented to FUN members who have exhibited exceptional teaching or research in an undergraduate setting, who have provided fundamental service to advancing the mission and values of FUN, and those who have demonstrated achievements in these areas over sustained periods of time. Nominations are solicited by the Past-President of FUN, and are considered by a committee made up of the FUN President, Past-President, and at least one volunteer from the membership of FUN. Up to six awards may be presented each year, as established in the bylaws of the organization:

The Educator Award is given annually to a regular member or fellow of FUN in recognition of notable efforts related to promoting effective teaching of neuroscience at the undergraduate level, and is based on a nominating letter from a member.

The Career and Lifetime Achievement awards are FUN's highest honors. The Career and Lifetime Achievement Awards are given from time to time to recognize individuals who have made outstanding efforts on behalf of undergraduate neuroscience education and research. Outstanding efforts may include singular achievements that have provided wide benefit to the undergraduate neuroscience community, or sustained efforts across years. Consideration for these awards is based on a nominating letter from a member.

The Service Award is given from time to time to recognize individuals who have made outstanding efforts towards the continuing development of FUN as an organization.

The Mentor Award is given from time to time to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions as mentors for young neuroscientists.

The FUN Award for Fostering Diversity & Inclusivity is given from time to time to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary efforts promoting diversity and inclusivity in undergraduate neuroscience education. Outstanding support of diversity may include the development of programs that substantially enhance the advancement of students and/or faculty from diverse backgrounds, successful and inclusive mentoring of diverse students and/or faculty, or fostering inclusive classroom and laboratory environments for all to succeed in science.

2022 FUN FACULTY AWARD WINNERS

CAROL ANN PAUL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:

Ashley Juavinett

University of California San Diego, United States

Dr. Juavinett's work to promote neuroscience education spans several areas with the focus on utilizing open-source database and computational tools. In the big data era, her work has contributed to the repertoire abundance of educational materials that prepare undergraduate students for computational analysis of big datasets in brains. These educational resources include her activities using the brain atlas and educational materials from the e-phys course at her home institution of University of California at San Diego. Dr. Juavinett is the author/co-author of several pedagogy publications including a book on academic neuroscience careers, and articles articulating the importance of developing coding skills in neuroscience training. In addition to her presentations and sharing within the FUN community, her passion for teaching can also be seen in her outreach activities in communities from the east to west coast, at the intersection between neuroscience and art/music.

FUN MENTOR AWARD:

Tamily Weissman-Unni

Lewis and Clark College, United States

Dr. Weissman-Unni is an associate professor and chair of Biology. She is being recognized for her exemplary record in mentoring undergraduate research at a primary undergraduate institution. Dr. Weissman-Unni has mentored 45 undergraduate students (31 women and 17 BIPOC) in conducting thesis neuroscience research over the past 12 years. The quality of her formative research and mentorship is highlighted by the impressive record of 12 publications with these students, and the honors they have received, including two Goldwater Scholarships (plus one honorable mention) and 2 NSF graduate research fellowships. Approximately 90% of her students have pursued careers in the life sciences. Her candidacy for the mentor award was enthusiastically supported by her students (including two Ph.D. candidates) for instilling passion and confidence in science, training them to become neuroscientists, and supporting them far and beyond in pursuing their career goals.

FUN SERVICE AWARD:**Amy Jo Stavnezer****College of Wooster, United States**

Dr. Stavnezer is the recipient of this year's service award for her long-standing service to FUN and more recently, her active and diverse roles at supporting FUN during the pandemic years. In different capacities and leadership roles, Dr. Stavnezer has been a consistent promoter of the FUN organization, and a past-president of the organization. Her recent diverse roles include reviewing and serving on the editorial board of JUNE, leading discussions for the FUN 2020 Summer Virtual Meeting on "first day sheets" in courses, and co-drafting the first FUN DEI statement. Her most recent service to FUN is leading the conceptualization, organization, and delivery of the FUN Final Fridays (FFF), along with Jason Chan, David Donley, and Barbara Lom. Beginning in 2021, this virtual monthly series has served as a main platform for FUN members to meet and engage with each other to discuss timely issues in neuroscience education. These sessions cover a wide range of pedagogical topics with prominent speakers and facilitators, many of whom are active FUN members. Regularly, 20-30 FUN members attend these sessions.

DEI AWARD:**Alo Basu****College of the Holy Cross, United States**

Ever since joining FUN, Dr. Basu has been a prominent and guiding voice for diversity, equity, and inclusion for FUN, for Holy Cross, and for all of higher education. Her devotion and commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness can be seen from her teaching introductory neuroscience courses, her leadership role in her college's HHMI inclusive excellence grant, her service to FUN on the education committee and the executive board, and especially her pivotal leadership in the 2020 Summer Virtual Meeting. Dr. Basu is an author and presenter of several pedagogy articles and presentations with the focus to broaden student access to quality neuroscience education. In planning the summer virtual meeting, her integral and essential vision and voice to promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness and support BIPOC members delivered a diverse panel of speakers and specific DEI sessions, and discussion that highlighted the considerations for all faculty. In one of her nomination letters, her supporter stated "while many people may embrace the ideals behind diversity, equity and inclusion, there are few who work so tirelessly to ensure these ideals are carried out". The energy generated from SVM was so substantial that it led to a record number of FUN members running for FUN offices in the subsequent year. This award demonstrates the appreciation of her colleagues for Dr. Basu's strong and far-reaching work and influence on the FUN community.

FUN CAREER AWARD:**Leah Chase****Hope College, United States**

Leah Chase receives this award for her 20+ year career of promoting neuroscience education in her institution and service to FUN. Her impressive career started in 2000,

when she joined Hope College as a joint appointment in the Biology and Chemistry departments, where she led the work to establish a Neuroscience minor in 2005. As part of the curriculum, Dr. Chase developed and taught introductory (Introduction to Neuroscience), upper-level (Neurochemistry and Disease), and research-based capstone (Advanced Neuroscience Research I and II) courses. The success of the Neuroscience minor led to the establishment of the Neuroscience major in 2018. The inception and growth of the Neuroscience major was intertwined with FUN starting when Dr. Chase attended a FUN summer workshop. Since then, she has served FUN as councilor (2008-2010), as president (2015-2017) and as a member of the President's Advisory Council.

Not only did Dr. Chase transform neuroscience education at Hope College, her dedication and commitment to undergraduate neuroscience research and teaching are far-reaching and inspiring to colleagues, students, and mentees alike. She has mentored more than 120 undergraduate students; over 80 of these students have obtained or in the process of obtaining an advanced degree. Since its inception, the Neuroscience program has graduated 21 majors and 121 minors and has a current enrollment of 30 majors and 14 minors, with numbers increasing steadily every semester, thanks to Dr. Chase's initial vision and continued development over the last 22 years.

FUN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:**Patsy Dickinson****Bowdoin College, United States**

Patsy Dickinson is a Josiah Little Professor of Natural Sciences and is about to retire, marking this year as the end of her long and prolific career. She has received numerous awards including the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute Science Fellowship (1987), the NIH Fogarty Senior Fellowship (1999), and a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (1999), and FUN Educator of the Year Award (2012). Her career as a neuroscience researcher and educator is marked with starting a Neuroscience Major and program at Bowdoin College, which has now expanded to including 5 jointly appointed neuroscience faculty members, from 3 majors in 2002 to 34 majors this year. She taught neurophysiology courses with high praises from her students. Despite being close to retirement, she developed creative solutions for remote teaching during the pandemic.

Over the course of her career, Dr. Dickinson has closely mentored hundreds of students in her lab, introducing them to research and getting them excited about careers in STEM. She worked tirelessly to fund this research through Bowdoin fellowships and multiple NSF as well as several other grants, such as HHMI, Grass Foundation, Whitehall, and Human Frontier grants. This work has resulted in numerous presentations at national and international conferences and 55 publications with undergraduate co-authors. Many of her former research students have gone on to successful careers in science.

Dr. Dickinson has also contributed immensely to the broader research program at Bowdoin through securing

funding, overseeing and administering research fellowships and increasing diversity in science. As a testament to her legacy, the Patsy Dickinson and Greg Anderson Neuroscience Research Fund was established to support student research and programming in Neuroscience, focusing on first-generation and under-represented college students.

Received March 29, 2023; accepted April 14, 2023.

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