

# College of Letters and Sciences Awards

The College of Letters and Sciences began hosting an annual awards ceremony in 2011, to recognize the achievements of alumni, faculty and students. Outstanding graduates are honored as **Alumni-of-the-Year** in the areas of humanities, sciences/mathematics, and social sciences. **Outstanding students**, seniors who have attained high scholastic achievement, earning an over-all GPA of 3.80 or higher, are also recognized. Faculty Fellows are awarded for outstanding teaching and research, and recipients of CSU faculty awards are also highlighted during the ceremony.

- [2015](#)
- [2014](#)
- [2013](#)
- [2012](#)
- [2011](#)

## 2015 Award Recipients

### Alumni

- **Humanities** - Ryan Willoughby (B.A. History, 2008)
  - Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of Georgia, Inc.
  - Co-founded Truth Spring, Inc., a non-profit with the mission to develop and strengthen the North Highland community in Columbus with Christ-centered projects and strategies (2009)
- **Sciences and Mathematics** - Jenn Collins (M.S. Environmental Science, 2011)
  - Former Director of Outreach and Education for the Chattahoochee RiverWarden, Inc., a non-profit committed to using science, education, and advocacy to protect the middle Chattahoochee River and its tributaries
  - 2007 and 2012 Keep Columbus Beautiful Community Improvement Awards
- **Social Sciences** - Sidney Levine, Ph.D. (B.A. Psychology, 1969)
  - Former Clinical Director/Chief of Professional Services at The Family Center in Columbus

### Faculty

*CSU Educator of the Year finalists:*

John Barone – Biology

Melody Shumaker - Basic Studies

Florence Wakoko - Criminal Justice & Sociology

*CSU Faculty Service Award finalist:*

Carmen Skaggs – English

*CSU Faculty Research & Scholarship Award finalist:*

David Schwimmer – Earth & Space Sciences

*CSU William Chappell Graduate Faculty Award:*

Troy Keller – Earth & Space Sciences

*USG Regents Teaching Excellence Awards nominees finalists:*

Patrick Jackson – English

Troy Vidal – Political Science & Public Administration

*USG Regents Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award:*

Eliot Rendleman – English

**Students**

*Biology* - Ashraff Buari, Elizabeth Center, Charley Denmark, Lachesica Evans, Rebecca Moody, Jennifer Prophitt, Angelin Shajan, Micah Staples, Lauren Whitehurst, Katie Winkles

*Chemistry* - Nicole Sikes, Hannah Smith, Timothy Summers, Franklin Valdera

*Criminal Justice & Sociology* - Courtney Bryan, Angela Byrd, Shavonne Johnson, Bonnie Mansfield, Ana Mendham, Robin Morris, James Petallar, Radmila Williams

*Earth & Space Sciences* - Kenneth Roop-Eckart, Kayla Parsons

*English* - Katherine Bellware, Rebecca Fourhman, Heather Garza, Alyssa Hudson, Jacalyn Meyer, Jessica Meyer

*History & Geography* - Marlena Cameron, Katherine Hinzman, Christopher Lockhart, Nathaniel Reeves

*Liberal Arts* - Gabriel Choiniere

*Mathematics* - Heather Hauck

*Psychology* - Rachel Green, Julia Weatherford

**2014 Award Recipients****Alumni**

- **Humanities** - Christy Grigsby (B.S. English Secondary Education, 2007)
  - Early College Academy of Columbus
  - National Council of Teachers of English 2013 High School Teacher of Excellence Award (Columbus, GA)
- **Sciences and Mathematics** - Dorothy Cheruiyot, Ph.D. (B.S. Biology, 2004)
  - Biology and Environmental Science high school teacher at Brookstone School (Columbus, GA)
- **Social Sciences** - Daniel Trussell, Ph.D. (B.A. Psychology, 1974)
  - CEO of Webstar Behavioral Health in Atlanta
  - VP of Board of Directors for Global Presence Foundation (Atlanta, GA)

**Faculty**

CSU Educator of the Year: Kyle Christensen – Political Science & Public Admin.

CSU Faculty Research & Scholarship Award: Kevin Burgess – Biology

USG Regents Teaching Excellence Awards for Online Teaching: Jim Owen – English

*COLS Faculty Fellows:*

Outstanding Teaching – Harvey Richman (Psychology)

Outstanding Research – Kevin Burgess (Biology)

**Students**

*Biology* – Ashraff Buari, Jonathan Harrell, Leane Lamberth, Angelin Shajan, Valerie Staples

*Chemistry* – Franklin Valdera

*Criminal Justice & Sociology* – Shawn Baldwin, Angela Byrd, Bonnie Mansfield, Ronald Thurmond

*English* – Alyssa Hudson, Samantha Lamberson, Lacey Noel, Nicholas Overby, Margaret Reeder

*History & Geography* – Logan Copley, Katherine Hinzman, Jamie Kopinski, Wesley Mellina

*Psychology* – Caroline Campbell

*Sociology* – Tyia Perry, Bobbi Starr

**2013 Award Recipients****Alumni**

- **Humanities** - Kristin Taylor (B.A. English, 2009)
  - UNICEF, Multimedia features and technical writer (New York City)
- **Sciences and Mathematics** - Dr. Christopher Wommack (B.S. Chemistry, 1993)
  - Horizons Diagnostics, Family Medical Doctor (Columbus, GA)
- **Social Sciences** - Chief George Turner (M.P.A., 2009)
  - Atlanta Police Dept., Chief of Police (Atlanta, GA)

## Faculty

CSU Educator of the Year: Clint Barineau - Earth and Space Sciences  
 CSU Faculty Research and Scholarship Award: Nick Norwood - English  
 CSU William Chappell Graduate Faculty Award: Kimberly Gill - Political Science & Public Administration

### *COLS Faculty Fellows:*

Outstanding Teaching – Clint Barineau (Earth and Space Sciences)  
 Outstanding Research – David Schwimmer (Earth and Space Sciences)

## Students

*Biology* – Jonathan Harrell, Benjamin Long (2013 Faculty Cup), Bolivia Hurtado De Mendoza, Martha Newell, Valerie Staples  
*Chemistry* – Michael Anderson, Huirui Washington  
*Criminal Justice & Sociology* – Rebekah Dowd, Kristin Graziano, Jaciel Reyes, Ronald Thurmond  
*Earth & Space Sciences* - Matthew Perry (2013 Phi Kappa Phi Senior Award)  
*English* – Elaine Hoffmeister, Margaret Reeder, Nathan White, Amanda Woodruff  
*History & Geography* – Logan Copley, Catherine Lovin, Taylor Meek, Wesley Mellina, Caleb Zuiderveen (2013 Georgia Academic Recognition Award)  
*Mathematics* – Brianne Moody  
*Modern & Classical Languages* – Sierra Johnson, Raymond Jones  
*Political Science & Public Administration* – Jessica Canedo, Gerald Chichester, Alex Cole  
*Psychology* - Cheryl Kolb, Kayla Short

## 2012 Award Recipients

### Alumni

- **Humanities** – Doraine Bennett (B.A. English, 2003)
  - Columbus writer, editor and teacher
  - Editor of the Infantry Bugler, the quarterly magazine of the National Infantry Association
- **Sciences and Mathematics** – Dr. Jason Harrison (B.S. Biology, 2000)
  - Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, Neurosurgery resident (Richmond VA)
- **Social Sciences** – Deborah Eakin, Ph.D. (B.S. Psychology, 1996)
  - Mississippi State University, Associate professor of psychology

## Faculty

*USG Regents' Teaching Excellence Award:* Susan Hrach – English

CSU Educator of the Year: Anil Banerjee – Chemistry  
 CSU Faculty Service Award: Pat McHenry – English  
 CSU Faculty Research & Scholarship Award: Joseph Francavilla – English

*COLS Faculty Fellows* (inaugural):

Outstanding Teaching – John Barone (Biology)  
Outstanding Research – Kevin Burgess (Biology)

### Students

*Biology* – Neena Alex, Bolivia Hurtado De Mendoza  
*Chemistry* – Claire EunHye Cho (2012 Faculty Cup recipient)  
*Criminal Justice* – Patrick Dupree, William King  
*Earth and Space Sciences* – Zachary Edwards  
*English* – Morgan Hughes, Ausu Mayo, Amanda Woodruff  
*History & Geography* – Tommy Hayes  
*Mathematics* – Brianne Moody  
*Modern & Classical Languages* – Sierra Johnson, Raymond Jones  
*Political Science* – Timothy Bussey, Gerald Chichester, Alex Cole, Madeliene Moore  
*Sociology* – Sheila Downs, Katherine Garzone

## 2011 Award Recipients

### Alumni

- **Humanities** – Dirk Ringgenberg (B.A. History, 2001)
  - U.S. Army Captain (retired)
  - Silver Star 2005 (Operation Enduring Freedom)
  - Legion of Merit 2010
  - Army Writing Contest winner 2009
- **Sciences and Mathematics** – Michael Burgess (B.S. Geology, 1993; M.S. Env. Sci., 2009)
  - Columbus Consolidated Government, Stormwater and Floodplain Programs Manager
  - Help-the-Hooch (river cleanup) chairperson
  - Rotary International “Service Above Self” Award 2005
- **Social Sciences** – Anne King (M.P.A. 1995)
  - Executive Director, MidTown, Inc. (non-profit organization with the mission to sustain and enhance the neighborhoods and businesses within midtown Columbus)
  - Columbus Museum's director of education for 14 years

### Faculty

#### *CSU Educator of the Year finalists:*

Anil Banerjee – Chemistry  
Bridget Downs – Criminal Justice  
Nancy Moore – English

#### *CSU Faculty Service Award finalists:*

Cathy Fussell – English  
Daniel Van Kley – Philosophy

#### *CSU Faculty Research & Scholarship Award finalists:*

Kevin Burgess – Biology  
Joseph McCallus – English

#### *USG Regents' Teaching Excellence Award finalist:*

Susan Hrach – English

**Students**

*Biology* – Neena Alex, Stewart Helton

*Chemistry* – Heather Boyette, EunHye Cho

*Criminal Justice and Sociology* – Amanda Alexander, Donald Bolz, Mary Correll, Nicholas Gagnon, Katherine Garzone, William King, Sarah Robertson

*English* – Jennifer Ross, Danielle Thompson, Jarred Wiehe

*History and Geography* – Tommy Hayes, Erin Tyson

*Mathematics and Philosophy* – Keith Roop-Eckart

*Modern & Classical Languages* – Gwendolen Brown, Sylvia Kather-Hucke, Carmen Stancu

*Political Science* – Morgan Hayden

*Psychology* – La'Sandra King