



Student Awards Recognition

June, 2020



Hello everyone! Thank you for joining us for the first-ever virtual Student Awards Ceremony! This is truly a one of a kind event designed to honor our 2020 Student Award Winners and all of the incredible things that they have done at Oregon Tech and in our communities. This celebration would not be possible without the outpouring of nominations and letters of support that came from faculty, staff, fellow students, and community members alike. The Student Awards Commission would love your help in congratulating these excellent students so please share and send along your support through whatever means you'd prefer. Alright, let's get celebrating!

In Oregon Tech tradition, Dr. Erin Foley is here to lead us in congratulating all of the award nominees and recipients. Please join me in welcoming your Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Foley!

Dr. Foley:

Hello and thank you for joining us in celebrating the 2020 Student Awards! I hope you are ready to recognize some of Oregon Tech's best and brightest students. First, please join me in acknowledging the student award nominees.

Hiram M. Hunt Award
Outstanding Community Service Award
Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award
Owens Citizenship Award
Most Dedicated Student Award
Student Achievement Award
Outstanding Student Veteran
Oregon Tech Pride Award

Congratulations to all of you!

Student Awards recipients will receive a personally engraved plaque and their names listed on the perpetual plaques, which are kept in the Student Affairs Office. As we congratulate each recipient, you'll see video clips from the Oregon Tech community. The full videos are available on the 2020 Student Awards webpage. When you're there, you can also check out information on the creation and history of each award.

Dr. Foley:

Our first student award is the Hiram M. Hunt Award which recognizes an undergraduate student project which makes a significant contribution to the field. Congratulations to the Strix Engineering team including Brandon Foose, Bryson Lemapu and Noah Cayson who all graduate this year with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Franny Howes

Hello! My name is Franny House. I'm a professor in the Communication Department and I nominated Strix Engineering for the Hiram M. Hunt Award, namely Brandon Foose, Bryson Lemapu, and Noah Cayson for their work on developing an aerospike nozzle. Now I'm no rocket scientist. I'm a technical writer.

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



But seeing the diligent work that these students put into their project impressed me and got my attention. And while I worked most closely with Noah, who was my student on materials related to this project, I wanted to nominate them to recognize their innovative work. Working on an aerospike nozzle, which is a type of rocket nozzle that performs better across a variety of altitudes, instead of just at one altitude pursuing NASA grant funding and successfully getting it to support their project and persevering despite their project being severely interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. And I'm delighted that they have won this award and are being recognized for their significant work. So, Brandon Bryson and Noah congratulations. We are very proud of you.

Dr. Foley:

The Graduate Student Achievement Award recognizes a student's outstanding accomplishments such as graduate projects, papers or presentations, research experiences that have made significant contribution to the student's academic area of interest. This year's winner of the Graduate Student Achievement Award is Noah Neiman. Noah graduates this year with both Bachelor and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering.

Dr. Charles Riley

So, I thought no better place than the Structures Lab to nominate or give some words about Noah Neiman's nomination for the Graduate Student Achievement Award. This is the facility where Noah has done a lot of his work. This is his project, testing shipping container wall panels for their structural behavior through reverse cyclic loading.

Noah has done an incredible amount of work overcome enormous obstacles and is entirely deserving of this great recognition. So, Noah started this project well over a year ago with me as I was trying to develop this new facility, our structures lab with new equipment. These actuators that you see up on the wall here, they can generate 50000 pounds of force. And Noah worked with me as I was getting this new equipment delivered and commissioned and up and running.

Noah did countless hours of work putting himself into this computer interface figuring out how to tune these, very much like a musical instrument. If you don't tune them, they don't function properly. So, Noah knows all of this lab intimately and is willing to take on any challenge. He had led a team of his peers (six of his peers) in an independent study to develop his testing. They cut a part of 40-foot shipping container into 8-foot wall panels and now have developed various fixtures and loading beams in order to test these to observe the kind of structural behavior that we're really looking for.

He's addressed numerous problems along the way with certain components failing unexpectedly. He's designed and redesigned and prototyped and done everything that I would expect out of the graduate student including all of the research and literature review. This this project is going to become our first thesis-based Masters in the Civil Engineering program. Noah was the perfect student to do it. He's tenacious. He will not stop. And he just keeps going. He's well over 150 pages in his thesis and still has more results to analyze at this point. But he won't quit.

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



He's gonna do a wonderful job. And by my estimation his goal of earning a PhD at some point in his lifetime is going to be one that's very achievable. Congratulations, Noah! This recognition is well deserved and we're very proud of you.

Dr. Foley:

The Outstanding Community Service Award goes to Megan Ross in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Oregon Tech and our local communities. Megan graduates with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Psychology and Nursing.

Dr. Alishia Huntoon

[Hello, I'm Alicia Huntoon, professor of Psychology. And I'm here as the happy nominator of Megan Ross, who is this year's winner for the Outstanding Community Service Award. There are so many reasons why I nominated Megan and I know I won't be able to mention all of them in this short little clip but I've been lucky enough to work with Megan for about three years now.

I first started to get to know her as a student in the Applied Psychology Program. She's majoring in both applied psychology and nursing. So obviously a very dedicated student. We work together on a number of things including research projects. And she's also been helping me out as a teaching assistance which she has been doing as a volunteer. This is not paid not getting credit for it. She's just keeps volunteering. And because she's absolutely fabulous I have no problem in saying yes, every single time.]

What I really noticed about Megan is that while she's great and works great with my students and is very caring in general to all students she's been fabulous with the community as well. With the research projects she has worked with me on, we had been out in the public schools doing some evaluation work for grant compliance. And while I was in a school one day waiting for her to come I was outside waiting for her to come in. There were some other teachers and staff standing around and she was walking in. They recognized her right away is not a school that she went to, but they knew her from other aspects of the community. These are students, kids at the school, that also knew Megan from, I don't know, a variety of areas as well.

She's been a fabulous community member. She I know has volunteered with CASA. She started doing this even before she was old enough to become an advocate. So, she helped us behind the scenes. She's helped with a number of camps designed to help youth that might be going through some difficult times and help them become more empowered.

She's helped out with a RAIN. She's served as somebody that can work phone lines for a crisis center. She works of Sky Lakes Hospital including right now with the COVID units. She works with people in the community just helping them take care of their fur babies. Even so she all around is just a fabulous part of this community. Highly competent, great communication, just a wonderful person. And I'm so happy to see her win this award. I have no doubt that she will be helping with this community and many people touching their lives individually in many years to come.

Congratulations, Megan! I'm very happy for you and very proud of you.

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



Dr. Foley:

The Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award was established to recognize a non-traditional as an exemplary role model and for their contributions to Oregon Tech and other communities. The winner of this year's Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award is Sally Sutton. Sally is in the OHSU Nursing Program.

Jennifer Bavarskas

Well hi! Fancy meeting you here. Hey you know what. I've got some really good news. You know Sally Sutton. Yeah. That's Sally. She won the Nontraditional Student Award at Oregon Tech. I know!

Well that girl has everything it takes to win a non-traditional student work. She has courage. She has commitment and she has intestinal fortitude. She just amazes me. You know she was in La Pine leading good life with her husband and her two daughters. She was leader of the Girl Scouts and master of La Pine Grange. And yet she decided to change her life up applied to OHSU. She didn't get in the first time. But you know that intestinal fortitude kicked in and she got in the second time. Well. And you know, that girl, she is so smart. She has a GPA of 3.96. And she was an A&P tutor. Mm hmm. That's right. She tutored that super hard class, anatomy and physiology. I know! Well you know, and she's been the ASOIT Nontraditional Student Affairs Officer for three years running. And she's the Vice President of the OHSU Oregon Tech Division of Nurses Without Borders. Next year she's gonna be the president. I know. Oh, I just I can't say enough about her. So, if you happen to see Sally Sutton out there please tell her from me. Congratulations. It really couldn't have happened to a nicer person. And just keep going. We want to see you through to you and get that doctor degree and become that nurse practitioner that you really want to be.

But hey I better get going. You have a great day. Remember, 6 feet back, bye!

Dr. Foley:

The Owens Citizenship Award is intended for the student who, in the opinion of the faculty, has made outstanding contributions to the university. This is exemplified by high moral standards, participation in school activities, interest in the betterment of the student body standards, a cooperative attitude toward the faculty and fellow students, and a spirit of adventure in academic activities. The winner of this year's Owens Citizenship Award is Brittney Ayles. Brittney graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biology-Health Sciences.

Priscilla Meredith

Congratulations Brittney on receiving the Owen's Citizenship Award. You are awesome. You have a natural, positive attitude about life and it will never fail you and it will follow you forever. You are respectful which has made you a great leader. It was an awesome day when you walked into that Admissions office. You truly have become an emissary of the hands-on Oregon Tech philosophy. You were always kind, encouraging, and helpful to all the students you gave your awesome tours to. I want to thank you for everything that you've done for the Admissions' Office and for me. You know how grateful I am for you. And most importantly, you have become a true friend. I want to congratulate you on this award, and your graduation, and all the other upcoming wonderful things that are going to happen in your life. I love you and take care!

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



Dr. Foley:

The Most Dedicated Student Award which honors a student who is involved in Oregon Tech activities and who has made a difference for their fellow students.

In addition to the plaque, the recipient will also receive a special handmade clock in honor of the tradition established by alumnus, Jesse Barker. We'd like to give a special thank you to alumnus, Scott Blower, for crafting the clock and carrying out this tradition.

The Oregon Tech 2020 Most Dedicated Student award goes to Rowan Parker. Rowan is a Junior in our Software Engineering Technology Program

Professor Todd Breedlove

I was told to keep this short and sweet. I doubt I will be able to do that.

A few years ago, while on a recruiting trip to Rogue Community College, Juliet Long, Chair of the Computer Science Department, mentioned that she had convinced a young woman to transfer to Oregon Tech upon completion at RCC. Juliet informed me that, "I was going to love her!" Although I was unable to meet the student then I later met when she was touring the campus. She happened to stop by my lab and after a brief conversation, I thought she's a character. I was right in the best possible way.

Since then, this student has divided her energies between school work and her passion for aerospace. After her first year at Oregon Tech, she interned at Everi Games in Reno, Nevada. While this was her passion, she learned a lot and was extremely successful and returned to school with renewed determination to work in Aero-Space. This year, she interviewed with many companies in her chosen field receiving at least 10 internship offers before settling on NASA-Armstrong during spring term. While on her internship she interviewed with another NASA site, Goddard and has received a second NASA internship during the summer.

Through all of her successes, she has never forgot about Oregon Tech.

- She is a member of the departmental ambassadors, recruiting students for the university and the department.
- After interviews, she would often ask if the company would mind if they would speak to our students. She orchestrated six presentations from major aero-space organizations including NASA and SpaceX.
- She helps other students fine-tune their job seeking skills with interview and resume advice.
- She encourages students to attend CSET events like BBQs and board game nights.
- She single-handedly encouraged over 15 CSET students to attend the [Career Services] Etiquette Dinner.
- This list goes on.

Suffice it to say, Juliet was right! I am so proud of this student and the achievements that she has accomplished. It is my honor and pleasure to recognize Rowan Parker, this year's Most Dedicated student award recipient.

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



Dr. Foley:

Our next award is the Student Achievement Award. The Student Achievement Award is presented by the faculty. It recognizes an outstanding work, such as a senior project, paper, presentation, or externship/practicum experience which is judged to have made a significant contribution to the student's academic area of interest.

The recipient of the Student Achievement Award for 2020 is Satomi Kiriakedis. Satomi graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Biology-Health Sciences.

Dr. Hui-Yun Lee

[It is my great pleasure to introduce the recipient of the 2020 Oregon Tech Student Achievement Award. The Student Achievement Award is presented to an undergraduate student in recognition of outstanding accomplishments such as senior projects, papers, presentations, or externship/practicum experiences that are judged overall to have made a significant contribution to the student's academic area of interest.]

This year's recipient, Satomi Kiriakedis exemplifies the core value of this award.

I have had the great pleasure of having Satomi as a student in several of my courses and as my TA for Anatomy. Satomi is without a doubt one of the very best students I've ever had in my classes. Aside from always having the top scores on all her assignments and tests, she was always engaged and thoughtful. Her grades were outstanding, around 99% in each class, consistently a step above any other student. I work with Satomi very closely. In all of our interactions she was always positive and smiling, polite and respectful. She is competent, extremely knowledgeable and a very effective communicator. She has challenged herself with a difficult curriculum in her time at Oregon Tech and has maintained a 4.0 average throughout.

Satomi has contributed substantially to a number of different scientific research projects while at Oregon Tech; including one focused on genotyping methods for cyanobacteria in Upper Klamath Lake and another focused on building and improving a microscope system. I have had the pleasure to mentor her on a research in studying the expression of stress-related protein in rat brain tissues. [She and another student were supposed to attend and present a poster at the national Experimental Biology conference this spring, which was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. She has been one of the most productive members of each of those research teams.]

The story has not ended yet.....She has further participated in a research project with a physics faculty member. She developed her own approach using Monte Carlo simulations and applied these methods to a problem of practical interest, which is simulating epidemic. She has been the driving force behind a student-faculty journal club for the past two years to discuss published biomedical research papers.

More recently, she took the initiative working with a couple other students to complete the cadaver dissections and produced high quality videos and images for students who could not be on campus this spring due to COvid-19. This effort benefits more than two hundred students in both Klamath Falls campus and Portland Metro campus. Her contribution is enormous.

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



Satomi has accomplished so much and she is absolutely an outstanding representative of the best that Oregon Tech has to offer. It is my great pleasure to honor you, Satomi. I will miss your smile and intellectual curiosity greatly, and I am proud to have you as a graduate of our Biology-Health Sciences program.

Congratulations, Satomi, and I wish you all the best for your future endeavors!

Dr. Foley:

Our next award is the Oregon Tech Pride Award. Introduced in 2003, is bestowed upon the student or students whose academic excellence, scholarship, service, or other creative endeavors bring outstanding recognition and pride to Oregon Tech.

The 2020 Oregon Tech Pride Award goes to the Business Competition Team. The team includes Quinn Damitio, Operations Management, Jared McBride - Business Management, Tanner Karp – Marketing and Peter Simonsen, also Marketing. All members of the team graduate this year with Bachelor of Science degrees in their fields.

Associate Professor Sharon Beaudry

Quinn, Jared, Tanner, and Peter at the beginning of this year you agreed, without any hesitation, to join me on a journey to compete in a live business case competition. We had no experience and we're walking in completely blind. But despite the challenges, all four of you had your eye on the prize from the very beginning.

You worked together through two challenging competitions. You learned about tetraplegics, who influences them, and how to get a medical device approved by Medicare. You learned about cryptocurrency. What was a bitcoin ATM and who would want to buy a BTM network? Complicated stuff indeed. Then through teamwork, creativity, adversity, occasional failure, and disappointment you came together to develop innovative and dynamic strategies for real companies to promote their real products that will impact real people.

For the longest time the Business Management programs were the best kept secret at Oregon Tech. Thanks to you, the secret's out. Quinn, Jared, Tanner, and Peter congratulations for winning the 2020 Oregon Tech Pride Award.

[Now, a few other people want to congratulate you as well.

Assistant Professor Don DaSaro

Congratulations to the Business Competition Team. You all went and showed the world that you're number one in the United States. And that's a great thing you did and make sure you include it in your resume. Once again, congratulations.

Professor Sandra Bailey

Congratulations Business Competition Team for an awesome display of teamwork pulling together under adverse circumstances. You represented Oregon Tech with the highest level of professionalism. For this we are proud! The Oregon Tech Pride Award is well deserved.

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



Professor Hallie Neupert

Hi Jared Tanner Peter and Quinn. Congratulations. What an awesome job. You've dominated ICB and now winning this award. You guys so deserve it. I can't believe how flexible and adaptable and willing you were to just see this through given these extraordinary times. Hope we can celebrate in person someday. Take care. Cheers.

Professor Richard Bailey

Congratulations to the Business Competition Team for winning the Oregon Tech Pride Award. You did a great job representing Oregon Tech in the Management Department. Congratulations on a job well done.

Assistant Professor Laurie Yates

Congratulations. Oregon Tech Prize winners. We are so proud of you. Your stellar work and professional presentation blew everybody away. Everybody. We again are so proud of you. Not just for your amazing work and your professionalism but we are also proud of the fact that you met and overcame many different obstacles, including a pandemic. So, congratulations once again. You guys rock!

Associate Professor Pat Schaeffer

Hey, Peter Gwin Jared and Tanner, I want to congratulate you once again on your tremendous effort and tremendous accomplishment. And I'm sure it's one of many accolades you'll be receiving your new professional careers going forward. But I also want to thank you, you know, with that tremendous effort and accomplishment for helping to put Oregon Tech's Business Management Department on the map. And to all of you I wish you much happiness and much success for the future. Cheers.

Eileen Mudgett

Hi team. Congratulations on winning the Oregon Tech Pride Warm. It is very well-deserved. And we are so proud of each one of you. So, remember to take good care of yourselves. Have some fun. Do some great things out in the world. And always remember this. We love you.

Associate Professor Kristy Weidman

Congratulations, Business Competition Team! You have made us so proud. Your marketing strategy was rock solid and your slide deck. Wow. It made me smile from ear to ear. Way to go.]

Dr. Foley:

An Outstanding Scholar is awarded to the student, who in the opinion of the department chair or program director, has demonstrated superior academic excellence in the major. Only one student may be appointed for a given bachelor's degree program. Each Outstanding Scholar is receiving a certificate along with the blue and gold honor cord with their diplomas.

The President's Senior Cup is awarded to baccalaureate students (generally one from each college) who, in the opinion of the faculty, have achieved academic excellence, completed impressive senior projects, or is accepted into graduate school, as well as involvement in other activities or

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.



organizations. This year's recipients were selected from the group of Outstanding Scholars that we just recognized.

This year The President's Senior Cup for the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management is awarded to Tanner Karp. Tanner graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Business with an option in Marketing.

The President's Senior Cup for the College of Health, Arts, and Sciences for 2020 goes to Junmin Yee. Junmin graduates with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Applied Mathematics and Software Engineering Technology.

Congratulations to Tanner and Junmin.

Before we close, I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff who submitted outstanding award nominations. We had tremendous nominations this year. We certainly could not do this without you. I would also like to thank the members of the Student Awards Commission for their dedication to the awards selections process.

Finally, congratulations again to all of the award nominees and the award recipients. You all are amazing. To the 2020 graduates, congrats, goodbye, and good luck!

Please Note: Sections in brackets [] is not included in the ceremony video but can be heard by viewing the videos beside each recipient's name on the awards webpage.