

Debertolis receives Abigail Allen Award, faculty cited at Alfred University Honors Convocation
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Gordon Atlas, professor of psychology, opens Alfred University's Honors Convocation

ALFRED, NY Patricia Debertolis, associate dean of students at Alfred University, received the prestigious Abigail Allen Award during the University's annual Honors Convocation Friday afternoon in Miller Theater.

Several faculty members were also recognized during the Honors Convocation, with 10 receiving Excellence in Teaching Awards; two presented Faculty Research Mentor Awards; one receiving the McMahon Excellence in Ceramic Teaching Award; and five awarded citations for 25 years of service.

Gordon Atlas, professor of psychology and director of the University's Honors Program, opened Friday's ceremonies, congratulating the students and faculty who were recognized. He urged them to be thankful to those who may have guided them along the way: faculty, staff, parents, colleagues.

"None of these achievers achieved in a vacuum," he said. "This is a time to be grateful to those who helped you attain your goals."

Debertolis has been advocating for and supporting students at Alfred University since 1996. In her nomination for the Abigail Allen Award, Debertolis has "worked tirelessly for so many years to advance the learning and leadership of women students and women in the community, as well as cultivating leaders of all gender identities."

In addition to a plethora of other job responsibilities, Patricia is a primary Title IX investigator for the University, a trusted and respected Safe Zone trainer, an advocate for the LGBTQ+ population, a mentor for students on Student Senate, a co-founder of the Allegany-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Fund for Women and an overall positive role model for students.

“Her advocacy and support for women in particular makes her an excellent fit for this award,” the nomination stated. “Through all of her activities, Patricia has reflected the ideals of the Abigail Allen Award by “improving the quality of women&s lives on our campus.”

Ten faculty members received the Joseph Kruson Trust Fund Awards for Excellence in Teaching, with recipients chosen based on a student vote. Following are the 2018 winners: Karen Donnellan, assistant professor of glass; Ehsan Ghotbi, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; Bethany Johnson, associate professor of psychology; Melissa Long, visiting instructor of athletic training; Michele Lowry, assistant professor of criminal justice; Garrett McGowan, professor of chemistry; Joe Rosiczkowski, associate professor of mechanical engineering; Rachel Roth, assistant professor of school psychology; Melissa Ryan, professor of English; and Kathryn Vajda, adjunct professor of foundations, School of Art and Design.

Steven Tidrow, Inamori Professor of materials science and engineering, was presented with the John F. McMahon Ceramic Teaching Excellence Award. The award is presented yearly in honor of Dr. John F. McMahon in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the University as both professor and Dean.

Two faculty members received Faculty Research Mentor Awards. This award is to acknowledge and reward faculty who are outstanding undergraduate research and scholarly activity mentors across the campus, those individuals who are outstanding mentors to students engaged in research or scholarly activity and are actively engaged in being researchers/visual-performing artists themselves.

Up to one award each year is offered in each of the following categories: physical/life sciences and mathematics, undergraduate engineering, social sciences, humanities, visual and performing arts, and professional studies. This year, the award-winners came from physical/life science Cheryld Emmons, professor of biology and the humanities Robert Reginio, associate professor of English.

Faculty members recognized with 25-year Service Citations were: Luanne Crosby, professor of voice and chorus; David DeGraff, associate professor of astronomy; Mark Fugate, professor of school psychology; Becky Prophet, professor of theater; and Pamela Schultz, professor of communication studies.

In addition to faculty being honored, several students were recognized as well. They included Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Award recipients Beryl Torte and Logan Gee, and SUNY Chancellor's Award winners Kade McGarrity and Jesse Plass.