DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

College of Arts & Sciences

Departmental/Program Awards

ABEC Program

The ABEC Exemplar Award recognizes the graduating senior in the ABEC program who embodies the Canisius College ideal: excellence in the classroom, outstanding scholarship, and a dedication to making the world a better place by advancing the fields of animal welfare and wildlife conservation.

ABEC Highest GPA Award is awarded to the student who holds the highest GPA in the ABEC major.

ABEC Excellence in Research Award recognizes a student whose outstanding scientific research helps to advance the understanding of animals.

ABEC Service Award recognizes the outstanding community services of a graduating animal behavior major.

Bioinformatics Program

The Student General Excellence Award in Bioinformatics honors the bioinformatics major who, along with a high GPA, has also made contributions to the field through research and/or service activities.

The Bioinformatics Program Excellence in Research Award honors a bioinformatics student who has completed significant research at the undergraduate level.

Biology Department

The Alpha Theta Chapter of Tri Beta Fialkiewicz Award for Academic Excellence in Biology is given by the Alpha Theta Chapter of Tri Beta, the National Biological Honor Society, to the graduating biology major with the highest academic average.

The John Kalb Award for Exemplary Research in Biology is presented to the graduating senior who completed the most substantial, independent research project in biology and who embodies the enthusiasm for scientific research as that displayed by the late Professor John Kalb.

The Alexander Award for Outstanding Research in Biology is given by the Alpha Theta Chapter of Tri Beta, the National Biological Honor Society, to a graduating biology major who has completed a significant independent research project leading to presentation or publication in scientific literature.

The Nancy Wohlschlag Distinguished Research Award is given to a graduating biology major who has completed a significant research project leading to presentation or publication in the scientific literature.

The Biology Department Excellence in Research Awards are given to graduating biology majors who have completed substantial research projects leading to presentation or publication in the scientific literature of their discipline.

Chemistry/Biochemistry Department

The Valerian A. Ruskiewicz Award for Distinction in Chemistry acknowledges superlative academic achievement demonstrated by the highest GPA in the department. The Student General Excellence Awards of the WNY Section of the American Chemical Society, the department’s highest awards, are presented to one chemistry and one biochemistry major who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement along with a strong commitment to service within our academic community.

The Student General Excellence Award of the American Institute of Chemists is given in recognition of a demonstrated record of ability, leadership and professional promise within the field of chemistry.

Distinction in Chemistry Award is awarded for outstanding performance (greater than 90%) on the DUCK Test (Diagnostic Undergraduate Chemistry Knowledge Test) as well as a GPA greater than 3.5.

Gerald Zon Chemistry/Biochemistry Undergraduate Research Award recognizes accomplishments in chemistry/biochemistry research.

Jeffrey M. Rose Award recognizes extraordinary service to the department and the student chapter of the American Chemical Society at Canisius, as well as excellence academic achievement.

Classics Department

The David B. Dietz Classics Book Award is given for outstanding performance in Classics courses.

Communication Studies Department

The Academic Excellence in Communication Studies Award is given to the graduating Communication Studies senior with the highest GPA in the major.

The Academic Excellence in Digital Media Arts Award is given to the graduating Digital Media Arts senior with the highest GPA in the major.

The Academic Excellence in Journalism is given to the graduating Journalism senior with the highest GPA in the major.

Digital Media Arts Outstanding Portfolio Award recognizes an exceptional Digital Media Arts capstone project and portfolio. It is given to a student whose portfolio exhibits distinction in creativity, design, technical proficiency and professionalism.

The Association of Women in Communication Scholarship Award is given to the graduating senior member of the association who served as an officer and has the highest GPA in the major.

The American Advertising Federation Academic Excellence Award is given to the graduating senior member of the federation with the highest GPA in the major.

The Public Relations Student Society of America Academic Excellence Award is given to the graduating senior member of the society with the highest GPA in the major.

The Academic Excellence in Communication Studies Award is given to the graduating senior member of the society with the highest GPA in the major.

The Gene and Peter Jankowski Award recognizes extraordinary service to the department and the student chapter of the American Chemical Society at Canisius, as well as excellence academic achievement.

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The Society of Professional Journalists Award is given annually to the graduating Journalism student whose work best exemplifies the ideals of the program.

Computer Science Department
The Computer Science Department Excellence in Academics Award is presented to graduating computer science majors who have achieved an outstanding academic performance.

The Computer Science Department Excellence in Research Award is presented to graduating computer science majors who have achieved outstanding results in computer science research.

English Department
The Charles A. Brady Award for Excellence in English is awarded to the graduating English major whose achievement in English courses and literary extra-curricular involvement has been superior throughout his or her college career.

The G. E. Murray Award for Excellence in Creative Writing is awarded by the faculty to the graduating creative writing minor whose achievement in writing courses and whose own creative writing have been superior throughout his or her college career.

The Leslie C. Warren Award for Academic Excellence is awarded to the graduating English major who has the highest academic average for his or her college career.

Environmental Science Program
The Environmental Science Award for Academic Excellence is awarded to the graduating Environmental Science major with the highest academic average for his or her college career.

The Environmental Science Award for Excellence in Research is awarded to the graduating Environmental Science major who has completed a substantial research project in environmental science leading to presentation and/or publication.

Environmental Studies Program
The Rachel Carson Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Studies is awarded to the graduating student with the highest GPA in the major and shows commitment to promoting environmental awareness in their work and study.

European Studies Program
Jean Monnet Award for European Studies is named for one of the founders of European integration. It recognizes achievement in European Studies in the classroom and through study-abroad and co-curricular activity.

Fine Arts Department
The Edith DeLuca Memorial Award is given to a graduating senior who has contributed musically to the college and the community through excellence in music, leadership, and service. The student exemplifies the high standards and values of Edith DeLuca, the founder of the Buffalo Philharmonic Concert Series at Canisius College.

The Thalia Feldman Memorial Award in Art History is awarded to a graduating senior in Art History who has maintained outstanding academic achievement and has demonstrated leadership in furthering an understanding of the importance of the visual arts in our community.

The Outstanding Achievement in Visual Art Award is presented to a graduating senior whose visual creativity has contributed to Canisius College and the community through excellence in visual art, service and leadership, thereby exemplifying the high standards of Canisius College and the Fine Art Studio Program.

History Department
The Professor William M. Harrigan Award for Excellence in History was inaugurated in 1971 to commemorate the late Dr. William M. Harrigan, chair of the History Department from 1960 to 1968. To promote excellence in historical scholarship, the award is presented to the senior who best exemplifies the standards of scholarship, interest in history and Christian values which Dr. Harrigan upheld.

The Professor Edwin L. Neville Scholarship in History is given to a senior History major or Secondary Education/Social Studies major who will pursue an advanced degree in history or social studies, preferably in Asian history.

The Rev. Nicholas J. Sullivan, SJ Award is given for excellence in historical writing.

The Professor Walter J. Sharrow Award is presented to a graduating senior who shows great promise as a teacher of history at the K-12 level.

International Relations Program
The International Relations Academic Excellence Award is given to the senior with the highest GPA among International Relations majors.

The International Relations Award for Global Understanding and Involvement is presented annually to the senior International Relations major demonstrating academic excellence and furthering international understanding.

Latin American Studies Department
Simon Bolivar Award for Latin American Studies is presented to a Latin American studies senior who achieved high academic standing and demonstrated leadership in furthering the understanding of Latin American and/or Latino communities in the United States.

Mathematics & Statistics Department
The Dr. Robert Tidd Award for Distinction in Mathematics is given to an outstanding senior upon recommendation by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The Dr. William M. Huebsch Award in Mathematics is awarded annually to a senior who combines excellent performance in mathematics with great promise in a career in the application of mathematics to other fields. The award is named in honor of Dr. Huebsch ’43, who was a former chair of the Mathematics department.

Military Science Program
The General George C. Marshall Award is given annually by the George C. Marshall Foundation to the outstanding senior ROTC cadet in Buffalo.

The Outstanding Military Graduate Award is given to a distinguished Canisius College cadet who demonstrates exceptional leadership potential, academic achievement and participation in ROTC activities.

Modern Languages Department
The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) Board of Directors Award for Excellence in Language Study is presented to a graduating senior enrolled in the most advanced course of the language who shows evidence of interest in the language and international studies beyond work in the classroom.
The Raymond L. Girard Award for Distinction in French is bestowed annually on the graduating senior who best exemplifies the qualities of academic excellence and service in the field of French language, literature and culture.

The American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Outstanding Senior in French Award is awarded to a student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the study of French through academic and extracurricular activities related to the language.

The German Consulate of New York Award for Excellence in German is bestowed on the graduating senior who exemplarily combines academic excellence in German language, literature and culture with service to his or her fellow students in the major over the course of four years.

The James J. McGoldrick Award for Excellence in German is bestowed annually on the graduating senior who best exemplifies the qualities of academic excellence and service in the field of German language, literature and culture.

The Nebrija-Bello Award for Distinction in Spanish is bestowed annually on the graduating senior who best exemplifies the qualities of academic excellence and service in the field of Spanish language, literature and culture.

Philosophy Department

Rev. J. Clayton Murray, SJ, Award in Philosophy is awarded to the outstanding student in philosophy.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Award in Philosophy is given, at the discretion of the Department of Philosophy, to a student who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in satisfying the college’s curriculum requirements in philosophy.

Physics Department

The Valerian A. Ruskiewicz Memorial Prize for Distinction in Physics is awarded annually to the member of the senior class who has the highest class standing throughout his/her course in physics.

The Valerian A. Ruskiewicz Memorial Prize for Distinction in 3+2 Engineering is awarded to the student with outstanding achievement in the 3+2 Physics/Engineering Program, who has mastered the fundamentals of both physics and engineering.

Political Science Department

The Pi Sigma Alpha Award is given to the student who best exemplifies academic excellence and the pursuit of knowledge in political science.

The Woodrow Wilson Award is awarded to the Political Science major who combines academic excellence with a demonstrated commitment to public service.

Psychology Department

The Donald L. Tollefson Annual Psychology Award is bestowed annually to the senior who best personifies Donald L. Tollefson’s ideals of intellectual inquiry and professional engagement in the field of psychology.

The Outstanding Psychology Student Award is presented annually to graduating seniors with outstanding academic and pre-professional accomplishments in the field of psychology.

Religious Studies Department

The Cyril O. Schommer SJ, Memorial Prize in Religious Studies is awarded to the senior whose written work demonstrates theological insights and mastery of one of the religious studies disciplines.

The Dr. James P. McDermott Award in Religion & Life is given to the senior who manifests Dr. Jim McDermott’s love of learning and his application of religious values in his daily life.

Sociology/Anthropology/Criminal Justice Department

The Jesse Nash, Jr. Sociology Award is given to the senior sociology major for academic excellence in sociology and a commitment to social justice in the legacy of Jesse Nash, Jr.

The Canisius College Anthropology Award is given to a graduating senior with the highest overall cumulative GPA in the major.

The William H. Jarrett Criminal Justice Award is given to a senior criminal justice major for academic excellence in criminal justice and a commitment to ethics in the legacy of William H. Jarrett.

School of Education and Human Services Departmental/Program Awards

The William F. Kean Award of Excellence in Education is given to the graduating major in the School of Education & Human Services with the highest academic average.

Adolescence Education

The Rev. Paul Nochelski, SJ, Award in Adolescence Education recognizes a graduating student who has demonstrated the hallmark of Fr. Paul Nochelski’s life: a consistent dedication to academic excellence and to the Jesuit values of cura personalis and social justice.

The Thomas W. Fitzsimons Award in Adolescence Education is bestowed upon a student who demonstrates excellence in academic performance, service to the college and the promise of a successful career in adolescence teaching.

Urban Education Award in Adolescence Education is presented to the adolescence education major who shows outstanding dedication to the Canisius College ideals of commitment to urban education and the betterment of our local community.

Counseling & Human Services Graduate Department

The Thomas & Camille Caulfield Award is given to the graduate student counselor of the year.

Education Department

The Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD. Award in Early Childhood Education is given to the outstanding early childhood major who exemplifies knowledge, skills and dispositions as dictated by the practices proposed by the National Association of the Education of Young Children.

The Donald J. Murphy Award in Childhood Education is bestowed upon a student who demonstrates excellence in academic performance, service to the college and the promise of a successful career in childhood teaching.
The Dr. Kimberly A. Leavitt-Noble Award in Special Education is given to the graduating senior who has maintained a high level of scholarship and demonstrates a commitment to teaching children with special needs.

The William D. Bennett Award is given to the graduating senior who demonstrates the hallmark of the late William Bennett’s life: commitment to academic excellence and teaching in multi-cultural settings.

Kinesiology Department
John T. Gabbey, MD. Award for Excellence in Athletic Training is presented to the graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding skills in all aspects of the Athletic Training program.

The Rev. Edward F. Maloney, SJ, Physical Education Award is given to the graduating senior each year who best displays academic achievement, contributions to college life, participation in the department, including sponsored activities and demonstration of professional qualities.

The Health and Human Performance Award is awarded to the student who best shows excellence in the field of human performance and exercise science, community involvement and excellent internship performance.

Future Professionals in Health & Wellness Award is presented to an outstanding senior in health and wellness who is committed to service in the health and wellness professions.

Sport Management Department
The Dr. Paul E. Bieron Sport Administration Award is given to an undergraduate student enrolled in sports management as a concentration. The student will have had overall high academic achievement, participated as a student intern in the sports industry and done significant scholarly work throughout the curriculum.

Wehle School of Business
Departmental/Program Awards
The Alpha Kappa Psi Scholarship Key is awarded annually to the graduate in the Richard J. Wehle School of Business who has attained the highest scholastic average over a three-year period. The award is made by the Delta Tau Chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, the oldest national professional fraternity in commerce.

Outstanding Business Scholar Award is given each year to a graduating senior(s) who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in the Richard J. Wehle School of Business.

Accounting Department
The Bradley J. Shelp, Jr. Memorial Award represents the most prestigious honor the Department of Accounting can bestow upon an accounting student. This award is given on those occasions when the Department of Accounting identifies a senior accounting student who excels in demonstrated attributes of excellence in scholarship and service to the college.

The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants Awards are given annually, one to a graduating senior in accounting and one to a graduating student in the MBA program in professional accounting. In each case the award is given to the student who has attained the highest scholastic average in accounting subjects and who is considered to be a desirable candidate for admission to the profession of public accounting.

The Accounting Society Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the Accounting Program is awarded annually to the outstanding senior accounting major.

The Accounting Society Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the Accounting Information Systems Program recognizes outstanding achievement by a senior AIS major and is given to the senior with the highest GPA in the AIS major courses.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International Award for Excellence in Graduate Accounting is awarded to an MBA graduate who is selected by the Committee of the Council on Accountancy at an overall outstanding student with the potential to make contributions to the accounting profession.

Economics/Finance Department
Nelson D. Civello Most Outstanding Graduate Award is given upon the recommendation of the faculty to the outstanding senior in the department.

Economics/Finance Department Best Finance Student Award is given to a graduating senior for academic excellence in finance.

John S. Murphy Award for Academic Excellence in Economics is given to a graduating senior for academic excellence in economics.

Entrepreneurship Program
Entrepreneurship Outstanding Student Award is given in recognition of academic excellence and commitment to entrepreneurial leadership as an entrepreneurship major.

International Business Program
The International Business Outstanding Student Award recognizes a student who has demonstrated academic excellence in his/her major as well as achievement in extracurricular activities including study abroad, international internships and participation in international conferences.

Management Department
Thomas J. Schillo Scholarship is awarded to a senior for high standards of academic excellence and personal integrity.

The Management Academic Excellence Award is presented annually to the top ten percent of senior management majors based on overall GPA.

Marketing Department
Donald E. Calvert Scholarship is awarded to a senior marketing or management student who displays superior academic and professional skills.

The Marketing Academic Excellence Award is presented annually to the top ten percent of senior marketing majors based on overall GPA.