DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

College of Arts & Sciences

Departmental/Program Awards

Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation (ABEC) Program

ABEC Animal Consciousness Award recognizes an ABEC student who, in the determination of the faculty, has demonstrated significant personal and professional growth during his or her time at Canisius.

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

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

ABEC Transfer Student Award recognizes a transfer student who has embrace the ABEC major and taken advantage of opportunities at Canisius.

Biology Department

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.

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.

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.

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.

Colleen O’Hara Heart Award is presented to the graduating biology major who best exemplified the selfless spirit of Colleen O’Hara in their contributions to their fellow classmates, the department, and the college.

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.

Chemistry/Biochemistry Department

American Chemical Society Organic Division Undergraduate Award recognizes an outstanding senior undergraduate organic chemistry student.

American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry recognizes undergraduate student excellence in analytical chemistry.

American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry recognizes outstanding achievement by an undergraduate student in physical chemistry and to encourage further pursuits in the field.

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.

American Institute of Chemists Award is given in recognition on the basis of a demonstrated record in leadership ability, character, scholastic achievement, and advancement potential in the chemical professions.

Valerian A. Ruskieiwicz Award for Distinction in Chemistry acknowledges superlative academic achievement demonstrated by the highest GPA in the department.

Western New York American Chemical Society Student Excellence Award, the department’s highest awards, acknowledges outstanding achievement and significant research accomplishments.

Environmental Science Program

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.

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.

Communication Department

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

Gene and Peter Jankowski Award of Excellence is given to a graduating senior in Communication Studies or Digital Media Arts who has demonstrated excellence in academic performance and television production.
Society of Professional Journalists Award is given annually to the graduating Journalism student whose work best exemplifies the ideals of the program.

WGRZ-TV Excellence in Multimedia Journalism Award is presented to a graduating senior Communication Studies major who has demonstrated outstanding skills and a commitment to journalism through the medium of television.

English Department

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.

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.

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.

History Department

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.

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.

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.

The Nicholas J. Sullivan Award for Excellence in Historical Writing is a competitive award that commemorates the late Father Nicholas J. Sullivan, a member of the Department of History from 1953-1989, and is funded by the Kemmer Family. For this award, students submit research papers and theses that exhibit excellence in historical writing.

The J. David Valaik Scholarship in History honors Dr. Valaik and his distinguished career as an American historian, Dean of Continuing Studies, and Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Historical Site. The History Department would like to thank Dr. Valaik’s former students, friends, and colleagues for initiating the J. David Valaik Scholarship Fund, and his wife Maryan and his children Daniel, Mary, and Michael for their generous support of the fund. The scholarship, which is applied to tuition in the recipient’s junior year, is a competitive award based on the recipient’s course work in the Department of History and on an essay that students submit to address their interest in the discipline of history both inside and outside of the classroom.

Military Science Program

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

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

Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Classics Book Award is given for outstanding performance in Classics courses.

Nebrija-Bello Award for Distinction in Spanish is bestowed annually on the graduating senior who best exemplifies the qualities of academic excellence in the study of the languages, literatures, and cultures of the Spanish speaking world, including in the US.

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz for Service is bestowed annually on a graduating senior in recognition of their service and dedication to the department, and in support of the languages, literatures, and cultures of the Spanish speaking world, including in the US.

Fine Arts

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

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.

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.

Philosophy Department

J. Clayton Murray, SJ, Award in Philosophy is presented to a student who has demonstrated exceptional achievement having completed at least five courses in philosophy.

St. Thomas Aquinas Award in Philosophy is presented to a graduating philosophy major who has demonstrated significant achievement or engagement with the discipline.

Political Science Department

Simon Bolivar Award for Latin American Studies 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.

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.

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

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

International Relations Program

International Relations Academic Excellence Award is given to the senior with the highest GPA among International Relations majors.
International Relations Award for Global Understanding and Involvement is presented annually to the senior International Relations major demonstrating academic excellence and furthering international understanding.

Psychology Department
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.

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

Susan K. Putnam Excellence in Behavioral Neuroscience Award is bestowed to a senior who demonstrated outstanding academic and pre-professional accomplishments in the areas of behavioral neuroscience/neuropsychology.

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

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

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

Dr. William M. Huebsch Award in Mathematics is given 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.

Physics Program
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.

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.

Religious Studies
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.

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, Criminal Justice, and Environmental Studies Department
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.

Dr. 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.

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 Department
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.

Counseling & Human Services Department
National Organization of Human Services Award is bestowed on a student who demonstrates excellence in academic performance, service to others, a commitment to social justice and a promise of a successful career in human services.

Counseling & Human Services Graduate Department
Thomas & Camille Caulfield Award is given to the graduate student counselor of the year.

Teacher Education Department
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.

Dr. Gregory K. Reeds Graduate Physical Education Teacher Education Award is given to an outstanding graduate physical education teacher candidate who best displays academic achievement and commitment to the physical education teaching profession. Honorees will also be recognized by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS AHPERD).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Gabbe, MD. Award for Excellence in Sports and Exercise Health Care is presented to the graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding skills in all aspects of the Sports Medicine program.

Paul Demartinis Memorial Award in Health & Wellness is presented to an outstanding senior in health and wellness who is committed to service in the profession.

Wehle School of Business

Departmental/Program Awards

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.

Academic Excellence in Business 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

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.

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

Accounting Society Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the Accounting Systems and Analytics 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.

Management and Marketing Department

International Business Program

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 Academic Excellence Award is presented annually to the top senior management majors based on overall GPA.

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

Sport Management Department

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.

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.