



2026 GSAS AWARDS DINNER

Campbell Award

To celebrate those who champion the spirit of the University, the Trustees of Columbia University and the Board of the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) have established The Campbell Award, presented by the CAA to a graduating student at each school who shows exceptional leadership and Columbia spirit as exemplified by the late Bill Campbell, '62CC, '64TC; Chair Emeritus, University Trustees; and CAA co-founder. Nominees must demonstrate a willingness and ability to work across schools and organizations.

Riya Rampalli ('26MA, Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology) works in the lab of Professor Deren Eaton. Their research focuses on reproductive incompatibilities between divergent, weedy Amaranth species. Through this work, Rampalli seeks to understand how evolutionary processes operate at the genomic level and what they reveal about reproductively diverse plant lineages.

Originally from Sacramento, California, Rampalli earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science in 2022 from Mills College in Oakland, CA. At Columbia, they have brought a strong commitment to mentorship and community-building alongside their scientific work. They co-lead E3Buddies, a departmental mentorship initiative, and have been actively involved with Women in Science at Columbia. Previously, Rampalli served as a Mentor and Mentor Community Leader with the New York Academy of Sciences' Afterschool STEM Mentorship Program, where they developed workshops and supported teams of scientist-educators. Across these roles, Rampalli is dedicated to expanding access to science and fostering inclusive environments for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student

The Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student was established in 1996 to recognize and celebrate graduate students who exemplify excellence in teaching. To receive this award is a great honor, as it demonstrates commitment to excellent and often innovative teaching as recognized by the entire Columbia community. Prospective recipients are nominated by their students and peers. From that pool, the faculty members on the Teaching Awards Committee select the final awardees.

Alice Clapie ('22MPhil, Theatre and Performance) is a doctoral candidate whose research focuses on the history of theatre and performance, with particular attention to Victorian and Edwardian drama. Her dissertation examines the fear of racial degeneration in turn-of-the-century theatre, and her broader scholarly work explores themes of humanism, intercultural exchange, and performance history. She has published on Shakespeare, modern American drama, and transatlantic artistic exchange, including work on Antonin Artaud and the American avant-garde. A French native speaker, Clapie brings an international perspective to her research and teaching, which are marked by intellectual rigor, creativity, and a commitment to collaborative learning.

Claudia Espinoza-Heredia ('25MPhil, Psychology) is a doctoral candidate in the Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, where her research focuses on early brain development and the role of environmental and cultural factors in shaping cognitive outcomes. Her work examines how experience influences neural development, with particular attention to children in underserved and under-resourced communities. Prior to Columbia, she earned her BA in Cognitive Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and worked as a research associate at NYU studying fetal brain development using MRI. In addition to her research, Espinoza-Heredia is deeply engaged in collaborative initiatives aimed at improving access to services and advancing equity in developmental science.

Joseph Lee ('25MPhil, Physics) is a doctoral candidate in the field of atomic, molecular, optical, and condensed matter physics, with a focus on quantum optics and collective effects. He earned his BS in Applied Physics from Columbia, where he conducted both experimental and theoretical research, including work in quantum computing and condensed matter

physics. He is currently a Frances and Charles Townes Fellow and a member of the Asenjo-Garcia Lab. In addition to his scientific work, Lee pursued parallel undergraduate studies in music performance as a double bass major at Juilliard and continues to compose. His interdisciplinary interests inform both his research and his teaching, reflecting a commitment to clarity, creativity, and intellectual breadth.

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Dr. Devon T. Wade Mentorship, Service, and Advocacy Award

The Dr. Devon T. Wade Mentorship, Service, and Advocacy Award is presented annually to a master's or doctoral student in any Arts and Sciences discipline who most exemplifies a commitment to community-building and mentoring. The award was established in 2018 in honor of the life and work of Dr. Devon T. Wade, who arrived at Columbia in 2011. Wade's research as a PhD student in sociology focused on racial and class inequality in educational settings, and the effects of incarceration on families and children. In addition to his scholarship, He received multiple awards for his promising scholarship, including the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Mariah Ramos (PhD Candidate, Chemistry) joined Columbia University having earned her BS in Biochemistry *cum laude* with a minor in Applied Mathematics from St. Mary's University. While at St. Mary's, Ramos was the recipient of the Trustee Scholarship and a Departmental Award, and was selected as both an NIH MARC*USTAR Scholar and a McNair Scholar. Ramos further honed her expertise through a Research Experience for Undergraduates internship at Ohio State University. At Columbia, Mariah Ramos's contributions to the campus community extend far beyond the laboratory; she has been recognized with the Jack Miller Teaching Award and the Chemistry Department Service Award for her dedication to her peers and students. As a leader in the department, Ramos serves as the DEI Chair for Women in Chemistry, where she founded the "Summer Spotlight Series." Her commitment to fostering an inclusive scientific community is further evidenced by her work in establishing Columbia's SACNAS+ chapter and launching the inaugural Marie Maynard Daly Lecture Series.

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Faculty Mentoring Award

The Arts and Sciences Graduate Council confers the Faculty Mentoring Award to honor excellence in the mentoring of doctoral and master's students by the faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. This award is entirely a student-run initiative; selections were made entirely by graduate student representatives from GSAS from a set of nomination letters spanning all disciplines.

Marina Cords joined Columbia University's Anthropology faculty in 1991, and since 2001 has been jointly appointed there and in the Departments of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology. Her research focuses on the behavioral biology of living primates, especially social and mating systems and how these relate to ecology and life history. A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Cords has led a 40-year field study of wild guenons in a Kenyan rain forest. She is an Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Primatology*, serves as the Vice President for Research in the International Primatological Society, and is also a leader of the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology (NYCEP), a coordinated doctoral training environment linking several New York City universities.

Madeleine Dobie teaches French and comparative literature at Columbia University specializing in Francophone/postcolonial literatures and cinemas of France, the Maghreb, the Middle East and the Caribbean as well as the cultural dimensions of migration and diaspora. She also teaches and writes about eighteenth-century French culture, with a focus on orientalism, colonialism and the history of slavery. She is the author of *Foreign Bodies: Gender, Language and Culture in French Orientalism* (2001), *Trading Places: Colonization and Slavery in Eighteenth-Century French Culture* (2010), *Relire Mayotte Capécia: Une femme des Antilles dans l'espace colonial français* (2012) and is currently writing a book on Algerian culture in the wake of the "black decade" of the 1990s. Dobie is a member of the executive committee of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society.

Outstanding Recent Alumni Award

The Outstanding Recent Alumni Award honors individuals who have graduated within the past fifteen years and have excelled in the early stages of their careers, exemplifying what GSAS alumni can achieve early in their professional journeys. Since 2015, this award has been presented annually to one doctoral graduate and one master's graduate.

Elizabeth Kai Hinton ('13PhD, History) is Professor of History, Black Studies, and Law at Yale University, whose research focuses on the persistence of poverty, racial inequality, and urban violence in the twentieth-century United States. Her first book, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* received numerous awards and recognition, including the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award from the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Her recent book, *America on Fire: The Untold History of Police Violence and Black Rebellion Since the 1960s* (Liveright 2021), won a Robert F. Kennedy book award and was named in *The New York Times* Notable Books. Hinton's articles and op-eds can be found in the pages of *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and *Time* and with the late historian Manning Marable, she coedited *The New Black History: Revisiting the Second Reconstruction*. A former faculty member at Harvard and the University of Michigan, Hinton now serves as the founding co-director of the Institute on Policing, Incarceration, and Public Safety at the Hutchins Center at Harvard University. A Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation Fellow, Hinton completed was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 2022 and has served on the National Academies of Sciences Committee on Reducing Racial Inequalities in the Criminal Justice System.

Ábel Ravasz ('14MA, Sociology) is a distinguished sociologist and policy expert who has dedicated his career to advancing social inclusion and minority rights in Central Europe. A former Fulbright Scholar, Ravasz has translated his sociological training into effecting policy change through leadership and evidence-based research. Currently, Ravasz serves as a Senior Advisor to the Slovak Ministry of Education, where he specializes in desegregation, minority inclusion, and preschool education. He is also the President of the Matej Bel Institute, an independent think tank focused on regional development and ethnic minority research. Throughout his career, Ravasz has occupied pivotal roles within the Slovak government, most notably as the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (2016–

2020). In this capacity, he coordinated national integration strategies and managed complex EU projects. His hands-on approach is evidenced by fieldwork in over 200 Roma communities and his authorship of the *Atlas of Roma Communities 2019*, a foundational resource for regional social policy. Beyond his executive roles, Ravasz has served as a senior advisor to the Ministries of Justice and Regional Development, focusing on legislative reform and inclusive governance. Fluent in Hungarian, Slovak, and English, Ravasz bridges cultural and linguistic divides to foster dialogue across multi-ethnic communities. His career exemplifies the profound impact of applying rigorous social science to the most pressing challenges of modern governance and human rights.

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Dean's Award for Distinguished Achievement

This award recognizes accomplished recipients for their profound impact not only on academia, but on the world at large. The Dean's Award for Distinguished Achievement has been presented annually since 1997. In each year since 1998, it has been presented to one doctoral graduate and one master's graduate.

David Sulzer ('88PhD, Biological Sciences) is professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Pharmacology at Columbia University and New York State Psychiatric Institute and an adjunct professor in the School of the Arts. A pioneer in the study of synaptic function, his lab has published over 270 studies on the basal ganglia and dopamine systems. The recipient of named lectureships at the National Institutes of Health, Harvard, Yale, UCSF, Emory, and the Vatican, Sulzer is the founder of the Dopamine Society, the Gordon Conference on Parkinson's Disease, and the journal *npj Parkinson's Disease*. Beyond his scientific achievements, Sulzer is an exceptional mentor who has trained dozens of graduate students and postdocs who now hold professorships at institutions including Yale, Cornell, and NYU. Sulzer is also a composer and musician, appearing on over 100 records, and has worked with many top classical and pop artists, and on projects coaching animals and children to create music, including the Thai Elephant Orchestra, which featured fourteen elephants and recorded three albums. He teaches a course at Columbia on music physics and neuroscience based on his 2021 book *Music, Math, and Mind*.

Tatiana Kotlyarenko ('07MA, Human Rights Studies) is an international expert and speaker on violence against women and girls and human trafficking. She currently serves as a member of the G20 IF20 Human Trafficking Working Group. From 2016 to 2023, she served as the Advisor on Anti-Trafficking Issues at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, where she authored critical handbooks on National Referral Mechanisms and pandemic-related trafficking trends. In response to the conflict in Ukraine, Kotlyarenko conducted rapid assessment missions to protect displaced women and children from exploitation. A member of the G20 IF20 Human Trafficking Working Group and a BMW Responsible Leader, her advocacy has been recognized with the NYC Bar 2026 International Law Conference on the Status of Women Award and Asia Society's 2022 Last Girl Award, given to grassroots activists fighting child trafficking.

Dean's Award for Lifetime Achievement

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has a special admiration for intellectual inquiry that reaches beyond academia to change the world at large. The Dean's Award for Lifetime Achievement is presented to a GSAS alumnus or alumna whose accomplishments over years and decades have made an impact on the lives of others and the greater good.

Joan Tower ('78DMA, Music) is one of today's most important American composers, with lasting contributions as composer, performer, conductor, and educator. Her work has been commissioned by the world's most prestigious ensembles, including the Emerson and Tokyo quartets, and the orchestras of New York, Chicago, and St. Louis; she has served as composer-in-residence for the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Pittsburgh Symphony. Tower is the winner of the prestigious Grawemeyer Award, a Guggenheim award, and her composition "Made in America" earned three Grammy awards, including Best Contemporary Classical Composition. Tower was the co-founder and pianist for the Naumburg Award-winning Da Capo Chamber Players from 1970-85. The Da Capo Chamber Players premiered many of Tower's works, including her popular *Five Fanfares for the Uncommon Woman*, which has been played by over 500 different ensembles. She is currently the Asher B. Edelman Professor in the Arts at Bard College, where she has been teaching since 1972. Tower's immense impact on the field has been recognized with the League of American Orchestras' Gold Baton and the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award from Chamber Music America.

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Alumni Medal

Established in 1933, the Columbia University Alumni Medal is the highest honor bestowed by the Columbia Alumni Association for distinguished service to the University. The caliber of the candidate's service should be such that its effects are substantial and enduring. Such service may be to the University, its Schools, its various alumni organizations, the regional Columbia Clubs, or Shared Interest Groups, and must have been sustained for a period of at least ten years.

Lindsay Leard-Coolidge ('92PhD, Art History and Archaeology) is an art historian, professor, and author who specializes in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century art. During her graduate studies, she received several fellowships, including the Reid Hall Fellowship, the Samuel H. Kress Fellowship in the History of Art, and the Chester Dale Fellowship in the Department of Prints and Photographs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Leard-Coolidge began her professional career in the Department of Prints at the Museum of Modern Art before relocating to Boston, where she taught art history for two decades—first at Harvard University Extension School and then at Northeastern University. She is the author of several books and numerous scholarly publications on printmaking and American art, including *A Sense of Place: Painters of Matunuck, Rhode Island, 1873-1941* and *Sublime Impressions: Prints and Printmakers of the Grand Canyon*. She is currently serving as the GSAS representative on the Alumni Trustee Nominating Committee and remains a member of the GSAS Alumni Engagement Committee. A member of the 1754 Society, she established the Lindsay Leard-Coolidge Fund for the GSAS Writing Studio to provide essential support for doctoral students navigating the dissertation process.

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