



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



Making
A Difference
Awards

Friday, October 30, 2020



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12:30 p.m.

Making A Difference Awards

HISTORY

On Sunday, September 25, 2016, Andrew Hamilton was inaugurated as New York University's 16th president. At his inauguration, President Hamilton instituted the first-ever "Making A Difference" Awards to recognize members of our NYU community—students, faculty, young alumni, and employees—who have made a profound and lasting impact for the better on the city, region, nation, or globe.

The awards seek to highlight ideas, discoveries, or new and innovative approaches that solve a critical problem, aid underserved populations, or break down barriers of misunderstanding and intolerance. By honoring such individuals—or groups of such individuals—on a regular basis, the University signals a recommitment to its motto: a private university in the public service.

2020 AWARDS

Opening Remarks

Andrew D. Hamilton
President

Awardees

Elise Cappella
*Associate Professor of Applied Psychology, and Director,
Institute of Human Development and Social Change,
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development*

Jacob William Faber (GSAS '15)
*Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Service,
Faculty of Arts and Science and Wagner Graduate School of Public Service*

Leah Lattimore (CAS '04; STEINHARDT '10, '22)
*Assistant Vice President for Inclusive Global Student Leadership
and Engagement, and Director, Center for Multicultural Education and
Programs, Office of the Senior Vice President for Global Inclusion,
Diversity and Strategic Innovation*

Marcus R. Pyle
*Doctoral Candidate, Graduate School of Arts and Science, Class of 2021;
Founder and CEO, ChamberWorks Music Institute*

Lorel E. Burns (DEN '15)
*Assistant Professor, Endodontics, and Co-Founder and Co-Faculty Mentor,
Saturday Academy, NYU College of Dentistry*
and

Cheryline Pezzullo (DEN '15)
*Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology and Comprehensive Care;
Assistant Director for Community Based Dental Education; and
Co-Founder and Co-Faculty Mentor, Saturday Academy,
NYU College of Dentistry*

Closing

Andrew D. Hamilton

ELISE CAPPELLA

“Elise Cappella is an extraordinary mentor, collaborator, and leader for the NYU community and beyond. She is making important contributions to solving local and global problems in education and human development through rigorous, relevant research. Moreover, she puts relationships and community-building first, making a difference that ripples outward through her research-practice partnerships, leadership at the Institute for Human Development and Social Change, and training of the next generation of education scientists.”

– Michael J. Kieffer, *Associate Professor of Literacy Education,
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development*

Elise Cappella is Associate Professor of Applied Psychology at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and director of NYU's Institute of Human Development and Social Change. She is co-director of NYU's Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training program dedicated to training doctoral fellows from groups underrepresented in the education sciences to become the next generation of education leaders. She will become Steinhardt's Vice Dean for Research effective January 1, 2021.

Dr. Cappella's research focuses on understanding and promoting social-emotional and academic learning as well as behavioral and mental health among students in pre-K to eighth grade. In partnership with school districts and community organizations, she studies school and after-school contexts, teaching practices and peer relationships, and social and behavioral interventions that influence children's well-being, with a focus on urban school contexts, underserved children, and students with emotional or behavioral difficulties.

Dr. Cappella's research has been supported by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Spencer Foundation, the Institute of Education Sciences, and the Foundation for Child Development. The ultimate goal of her work is to enable more education settings to fulfill their mission to enhance positive development for students with diverse strengths and needs. Dr. Cappella is a former fourth-grade teacher with a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University and a doctorate in clinical and community psychology from the University of California, Berkeley.

JACOB WILLIAM FABER

“Jacob Faber’s outstanding record of scholarship shines a bright light on the roles of institutional actors in facilitating the reproduction of racial and spatial inequality. He has also made important contributions to NYU’s university-wide Cross-Cutting Initiative on Inequality and to graduate training of the next generation of leaders at the intersection of scholarship, policy, and social impact. Dr. Faber is a scholar/citizen particularly committed to enabling solutions to systemic structural inequality.”

— Antonio M. Merlo, *Professor of Economics and Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science*

Jacob William Faber (GSAS '15) is Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Service, holding joint appointments in the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. His research and teaching focus on spatial inequality. He leverages observational and experimental methods to study the mechanisms responsible for sorting individuals across space and how the distributions of people by race and class interact with political, social, and ecological systems to create and sustain economic disparities.

Dr. Faber's scholarship highlights the rapidly changing roles of numerous institutional actors (e.g., mortgage lenders, real estate agents, check-cashing outlets, and police officers) in facilitating the reproduction of racial and spatial inequality. Through investigation of several aspects of American life, he demonstrates that a pattern of "institutional marginalization" emerges as a powerful mechanism connecting segregation to socioeconomic disadvantage.

In 2018 Wagner named Dr. Faber Professor of the Year and awarded him the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Research Prize.

Dr. Faber earned his PhD in sociology from NYU and worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Sociology at Princeton University. He also graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with master's degrees in telecommunications policy and urban studies and planning and a bachelor's degree in management science. Between stints at graduate school, Dr. Faber worked as a senior researcher for the Center for Social Inclusion, a racial justice policy advocacy organization.

LEAH LATTIMORE

“Leah radiates the spirit of this award. Her outstanding professional performance, inclusive leadership, advocacy, and scholarship have catapulted University efforts to advance equity, diversity, belonging, and inclusion goals. She is a highly-respected bridge builder who succeeds at forging collaboration and forward movement, even through tough issues and situations that have previously been stuck at an impasse.”

— D Simmons Jendayi, *Associate Director of Special Initiatives, Dean’s Office, Liberal Studies, Faculty of Arts and Science*

Leah Lattimore (CAS '04; STEINHARDT '10, '22) is Assistant Vice President for Inclusive Global Student Leadership and Engagement and oversees the Center for Multicultural Education and Programs (CMEP) and its LGBTQ+ Center. She began her career at CBS and Citigroup, but with the 2008 recession looming, she altered her professional trajectory. Lattimore became the senior associate director of multicultural and global programs at NYU, a position that allowed her to have an impact on the post-graduation success of university students.

In this new role, Lattimore focused on supporting historically underrepresented students at NYU and increasing their career opportunities in a range of sectors. She established NYU Shanghai's Career Development Center, serving as its deputy director, and began supporting NYU's university-wide inclusion, diversity, belonging, and equity initiatives as the director of CMEP.

Lattimore earned her BA in English and MA in higher education from NYU and is currently pursuing her doctorate in education at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. She serves on the board of Harlem Grown, a non-profit organization committed to youth development through urban farming, and is a member of the American Marketing Association of New York's Advisory Council. She is also active in her church, Bethel Gospel Assembly, Inc. Lattimore regularly credits her parents, James and Patricia Lattimore, for always pushing her to be an intellectually curious and compassionate leader.

MARCUS R. PYLE

“During a time of educational budget cuts and axed arts programs—especially in the wake of COVID-19—Marcus’s initiative works fearlessly to support students on a path of self-advocacy, joy, academic success, and informed citizenship. ChamberWorks serves as a model nation-wide at a time when questions of racial and economic inequality, education, and the crisis of the arts stand front and center.”

— Brigid Cohen, Associate Professor of Music, Department of Music, Faculty of Arts and Science

Marcus R. Pyle, a PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Arts and Science Department of Music, is founder and CEO of the ChamberWorks Music Institute. In 2010, he created ChamberWorks to provide high-quality music education for low-income beginning to intermediate music students. Through the institute, middle and high school students take part in chamber music performance, a youth orchestra, and courses in music theory, composition, and performance psychology.

Pyle is currently a musicology lecturer at Tufts University, having previously been a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the 2019 recipient of the Howard Mayer Brown Fellowship from the American Musicological Society, and the recipient of the Dean's Dissertation Award and McCracken Fellow of Historical Musicology at NYU. His research, which has appeared in the journal *19th-Century Music*, centers on depictions of *femmes fatales* in French and German fin de siècle opera.

A violist and violinist, Pyle has performed with numerous orchestras in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Royal Festival Hall. He is founding director and violist of the Locrian String Ensemble and serves on the board of the Dvořák American Heritage Association.

Pyle earned a BA from the Royal Academy of Music in London, an MA from the Juilliard School, and an MA in comparative literature from Dartmouth College. At Juilliard, he held the positions of Graduate Teaching Fellow and Morse Teaching Artist Fellow. Pyle also studied music psychology at Columbia University.

LOREL E. BURNS & CHERYLNE PEZZULLO

“Dr. Burns and Dr. Pezzullo are exceptional educators and mentors who created a network of young professionals driven to diversify the dental profession by showing underrepresented students how dentistry can be a varied, equitable, and attainable career. As a pipeline program, Saturday Academy addresses diversity and representation in dentistry and aims to change the economic disparity among first-generation students.”

— Eugenia E. Mejia, PhD, Assistant Dean, Admissions and Enrollment Management;
Adjunct Instructor, NYU College of Dentistry

Lorel E. Burns (DEN '15) and Cheryline Pezzullo (DEN '15) met as classmates at the NYU College of Dentistry. They founded the College's Saturday Academy pipeline program in 2012, with the goal of increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in dentistry. Saturday Academy's two-fold aim is to introduce high school students to the dental profession through hands-on activities while simultaneously preparing them for the college application process. Drs. Burns and Pezzullo received the President's Service Award for their program. In 2017, Drs. Burns and Pezzullo returned to the College of Dentistry as full-time faculty, where, in addition to their clinical and research activities, they serve as co-directors and faculty mentors for the student-run Saturday Academy.

Over 200 high school students have participated in Saturday Academy since the program welcomed its inaugural class in 2013. In 2019, the first cohort of Saturday Academy alumni were eligible to apply to dental school: two alumni are currently enrolled in US dental schools—NYU and Tufts—and six have trained or are training to be dental hygienists.

Drs. Burns and Pezzullo, who presented their strategies for pipeline program development at the American Dental Education Association Annual Meeting in 2016, have published about their work with Saturday Academy in the *Journal of Dental Education* (2019, 2020). In 2020, they received a grant from the ADEAGies Foundation to expand Saturday Academy through professional development programming for alumni.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

2016

Olugbenga Ogedegbe

Professor of Population Health and Dr. Adolph and Margaret Berger Professor of Medicine and Population Health; Director, Center for Healthful Behavior Change; Director, Division of Health & Behavior, Department of Population Health, NYU Grossman School of Medicine; Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Academic Planning, NYU

Diane Geng

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, NYU Shanghai

and

Wei Ji Ma

Professor of Neural Science and Psychology, Center for Neural Science, and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Psychology, NYU Faculty of Arts and Science

Scott Harrison (CAS '98)

Founder and CEO, charity: water

The Mercy Project, NYU School of Law

2018

Isabela “Isay” Acenas

College of Arts and Science, Class of 2021; Founder, IE

H.E. Shamma Suhail Faris Al Mazrui (NYUAD '14)

Minister of State for Youth Affairs, United Arab Emirates

Alina Das (WAG '05; LAW '05)

Professor of Clinical Law and Co-Director of the NYU School of Law Immigrant Rights Clinic

NYU Veterans Working Group

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