



## Chancellor Honors Faculty for Teaching, Research (continued)



From top left: Rodney H. Eatman, Joseph J. Grabowski, William C. de Groat, John W. Kreit, Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, Isabel L. Beck, Jeffrey H. Schwartz, Craig S. Wilcox, Kay M. Brummond, and Jeffrey Lawrence

### Teaching Award

Five faculty members received the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, which honors those individual whose efforts stand as an example of excellence in the role of University teacher. A synopsis of the notification letters the chancellor wrote to the recipients follows.

**Rodney H. Eatman**, a professor in the Department of Theatre at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, is being recognized for his 24 years of teaching and mentoring, in which his "demanding yet nurturing and encouraging approach" has guided students in "stretching their imaginative and creative muscles." Eatman, who teaches public speaking classes, directs three productions each year.

He also initiated an annual festival of one-act student plays. He has been credited with being "the heart and driving force of the theater department over the years, and the campus has benefited greatly from [his] dedicated and skillful teaching."

**Joseph J. Grabowski**, a professor in Pitt's Department of Chemistry, is being recognized for the innovative teaching techniques he uses that "challenge and motivate students" and for creating "a learning environment that incorporates their diversity of learning styles." He also directs a grant providing summer research opportunities for undergraduate students.

Grabowski's departmental colleagues also have benefited from his leadership in using technology in the classroom, his work in curriculum revision, and the monthly teaching seminar he initiated. In addition, he has written articles for the *Journal of Chemical Education* and has made presentations at national meetings about his innovative teaching strategies.

**William C. de Groat**, a professor in Pitt's Department of Pharmacology, is being honored for his 35 years of teaching excellence both within and outside of the University. Particularly valued is the basic science course in medical pharmacology that he teaches to first-year medical students, who appreciate his "expertly organized lectures [and] interactive course format." His teaching success also extends to second-year and graduate courses, as well as to mentoring undergraduate and pre- and postdoctoral fellows.

De Groat, whose internationally distinguished research career has been previously recognized by the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, uses "a problem-solving approach" to teaching

that incorporates historical context, research, and personal experiences, and allows students to explore the link between basic and clinical science.

**John W. Kreit**, associate professor of medicine in Pitt's School of Medicine and director of the Fellowship Program in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, is being recognized for his "dedication as a clinical educator who excels at teaching medical students in many different phases of their training."

Director of the medical school's pulmonary course, which he successfully restructured, Kreit has been applauded for the "patience, enthusiasm, unique bedside teaching skill, and intellectual curiosity" that he brings to the classroom. Both colleagues and students in the School of Medicine previously have honored Kreit for his teaching excellence.

**Deborah Studen-Pavlovich**, a professor in Pitt's School of Dental Medicine, is being recognized as "a teacher whose attention to detail, organization, and integration of clinical cases and self-study units make the classroom come alive, and whose nurturing of and respect for students enrich their preclinical and clinical experiences."

Studen-Pavlovich, a developer and administrator of the pediatric dentistry program, was selected by the American Dental Association as one of 25 "dental visionaries" for the 21st century. Placing importance on ethical practice, community outreach, and volunteerism, she has been called "a role model who [students] are proud to emulate."

Teaching award honorees will receive a \$2,000 cash award and a \$3,000 grant to support their teaching endeavors. They also will receive permanent recognition with a bronze plaque, which will be placed in the William Pitt Union.

### Research Awards

The following faculty received the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, which honors faculty members who have an outstanding and continuing record of research and scholarly activity.

Three faculty members were honored in the Senior Scholar category. A synopsis of the notification letters the chancellor wrote to the five recipients follows.

**Isabel L. Beck**, a professor in the University's Department of Learning and Instruction, is being recognized for her many contributions to the study of reading instruction. Her method successfully combines "a theoretical approach based on the cognitive theory of reading with experiences and awareness of classroom instruction."

Beck is a recipient of the National Reading Conference's Oscar S. Causey Award and the International Reading Association's William S. Gray Award. She also is a member of that association's Reading Hall of Fame.

**Jeffrey H. Schwartz**, a professor in Pitt's Department of Anthropology, is being honored as "an imaginative and highly original thinker whose work is innovative and inspiring—appropriate descriptors for one of the world's leading experts on human and nonhuman primate evolution."

Schwartz, one of the few scientists since the turn of the 20th century to have discovered a new genus of living primate, is the author of *The Human Fossil Record* (Wiley-Liss, 2002), "the single-most important reference on the human fossil record."

**Craig S. Wilcox**, a professor in Pitt's Department of Chemistry, is being recognized for his influential work in the fields of physical organic chemistry, molecular recognition, and combinatorial chemistry.

Wilcox introduced the molecule Troger's base, one of just a few molecules identified as being a general motif of molecular recognition. His work on "preciptons" promises to "change the way certain kinds of molecules are synthesized and separated, and has great potential for accelerating the process of drug discovery in the pharmaceutical industry."

Two faculty members were honored in the Junior Scholar category.

**Kay M. Brummond**, a professor in Pitt's Department of Chemistry, is being recognized for her development of novel synthetic methods, one of which is considered "one of the most visible synthetic achievements in the last few years."

Brummond, whose research focuses specifically on organometallic processes and their

application to the synthesis of biologically relevant molecules, is the inventor of a new variation of the Pauson-Khand reaction, which she used to create the complex natural product hydroxymethylacylfulvene.

**Jeffrey Lawrence**, associate professor in Pitt's Department of Biological Sciences, is being honored for his contributions in the area of microbial genome evolution. He has established "an exciting and thriving laboratory environment at the University," which has captured the attention of research associates and graduate and undergraduate students.

Lawrence, who enjoys an international reputation for his work, takes bioinformatics and computational approaches to understanding genome evolution, which he has used to determine the frequencies and mechanisms by which horizontal gene exchange operates in bacterial evolution.

Research award honorees will receive a \$2,000 cash prize and a \$3,000 grant to support their research.

[Home](#) | [Top of Page](#)

[Pitt Home](#) | [Find People](#) | [Current Pitt News](#) | [Past Issues](#) | [Contact Us](#)