

## Thank a Professor, Academic Year 2022-2023

The Center for Teaching and Learning offers a Thank a Professor initiative to recognize faculty whose efforts have helped create an outstanding experience for our students. Students can send messages to the faculty who made a significant impact on them, and the faculty receive a letter and certificate with the message, with copies going to department chairs, deans, and the appropriate vice president.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, **449 students completed 743 submissions, recognizing a total of 315 faculty members** and acknowledging their hard work and dedication.

Recipients include:

### *Architecture & Design*

Peter Ahn  
Benjamin Akhavan  
Amany Alkhayat  
Daniel Avilan Medina  
Carlos Balza Gerardino  
John Benton  
John Bermudez  
Trudy Brens  
Marcella Del Signore  
Christine Kerigan  
Jeongin Kim  
Charles Matz  
Beau McGhee  
Johana Monroy  
Athina Papadopoulou  
Kevin Park  
Christian Pongratz  
Michael Posso  
Jim Powers  
Sergio Saucedo-Huerta  
Vera Manzi Schacht  
Alexander Schweitzer  
Ryan Seslow  
Isabel Tabet  
Valerie Taylor  
Rozina Vavetsi  
Ariadni Vezyroglou  
Nader Vossoughian  
Patty Wongpakdee  
Mengni Zhang

Lissi Athanasiou-Krikelis  
Barrie Balter  
Madhabi Barua

Rozeta Bicaku  
Julie Black  
Amy Bravo  
Elaine Brown  
Nicole Calma-Roddin  
Asok Chaudhuri  
Yusui Chen  
Sophie Christman  
Linda Comac  
Arlene Crandall  
Cindy Davis  
Donna DeLucia-Troisi  
Halina Diener  
Sophia Domokos  
James Fauvell  
Minaz Fazal  
Jole Fiorito  
Donald Fizzinoglia  
Darren Francis  
Laura Friedland-Stulbaum  
Greg Gerber  
Nahid Ghani  
Bryan Gibb  
Mary Goetz  
Teshwar Gopaul  
Jennifer Griffiths  
Fatmir Gumeni  
Andrew Hofstrand  
Kevin Horton  
Melissa Huey  
Michael Izady  
Scott Jarvis

Leroy Jemison  
Chrisoula Kalogiannis  
Dina Karafantis  
Vitaly Katsnelson  
Jacqueline Keighron  
Joel Kouame  
Cindy Leibel  
Faranot Leon

Annmary Lopez  
Laihan Luo  
Tracy McGoldrick  
Giovanni Meloni  
Roseanne Melucci  
Habeebuddin Mohammed  
Reza Mollapourasl  
Lenor Nacheff  
Christian Nahas  
Niharika Nath  
Eleni Nikitopoulos  
Ben Ovryn  
Ann-Marie Parkes  
Shahrazad Parvaresh  
Sanjay Patel  
Sharon Petrushka  
David Pilla  
Laura Piscitello  
Gabrielle Platz  
Navin Pokala  
William Puccio  
Ange Quapp  
Seyed Masood Razavi  
Emily Restivo  
Roberto Reyes Carranza  
Yael Roitberg  
Dennis Rowen  
Ranja Roy

### *Arts & Sciences*

Robert Abramovic  
Changiz Alizadeh

Michael Schiavi  
 Vazgen Shekoyan  
 Stan Silverman  
 Laurence Silverstein  
 Manjot Singh  
 Anne Suozzi Debellis  
 Rex Taibu  
 Kara Toews  
 Brian Tomlinson  
 Thomas Troisi  
 Michael Tromblee  
 Doris Umbers  
 Michael Uttendorfer  
 Amanda Vasquez  
 Baole Wen  
 Jing Wu  
 Xiaoyan Yang  
 Melda Yildiz  
 Meyer Yousha  
 Mena Youssef  
 Roger Yu  
 Yu Zhang

### ***Engineering & Computing Sciences***

Maherukh Akhtar  
 Maryam Aliabadi  
 Ludmilla Amani  
 Robert Amundsen  
 N. Sertac Artan  
 Kiran Balagani  
 Soyeb Barot  
 Sidi Berri  
 Arman Bonakdarpour  
 Houwei Cao  
 Batu Chalise  
 Remi Charron  
 Jerry Cheng  
 Eugene Choi  
 Michael Colef  
 Xiaojun Di  
 Robert Doxey  
 John Eff  
 Tarik Eltaieb  
 Taoufik Ennoure  
 David Fanning  
 Aydin Farajidavar  
 Felix Fischman  
 Yuki Gao  
 Susan Gass  
 Paolo Gasti  
 Murat Genc  
 Yongjian Gu

Anupama Gupta  
 Bulent Guzel  
 Maryam Hamidi Rad  
 Tanweer Haroon  
 Tina Shoa Hassani Lashidani  
 Xueqing Huang  
 Seow Mun (Jasmine) Hue  
 Abderrazak Idrissi  
 Jonathan Johrden  
 Seyed Amirmostafa Jourabchi  
 Lloyd Jura  
 Ehsan Kamel  
 Momchil Karov  
 Patricia Keen  
 Azim Keshtkar  
 Sara Khanchi  
 Sandra Kopecky  
 Fang Li  
 Wenjia Li  
 Zhida Li  
 Qin Liang  
 Ju Seop Lim  
 Steven Lindo  
 Hao Liu  
 Qin Liu  
 Tokunbo Makanju  
 Juliana Mariano  
 Richard Meyers  
 Amin Milani Fard  
 Khalid Mirza  
 Seow Mun Hue  
 Michael Nizich  
 Jackline Okot  
 Lazaros Pavlidis  
 Ibrahim Pekcan  
 Mohammad Rahnama  
 Maryam Raiyat Aliabadi  
 Seyed Masood Razavi  
 Samuel Rostam  
 Yoshi Saito  
 Babak Salamatina  
 George C. Salayka  
 George M. Salayka  
 Anand Santhanakrishnan  
 Yunlong Shao  
 Tina Shoa  
 Altion Simo  
 Stefan Storey  
 Jeffrey Ting  
 Robert Tudisco  
 John Valente  
 Chris Wernicki  
 M. Christopher Wernicki  
 Liangwen Wu  
 Umme Zakia

Tao Zhang

### ***Health Professions***

Zehra Ahmed  
 Melanie Austin  
 Pamela Bonney  
 Colleen Chariello  
 Donna Darcy  
 Beth Elenko  
 Christina Finn  
 Robert Gallagher  
 Catherine Gerweck  
 Mindy Haar  
 Kyle Karen  
 Pamela Karp  
 Shinu Kuriakose  
 Kelly Lavin  
 Alexander Lopez  
 Natalie Milani  
 Lorraine Mongiello  
 Lenor Nacheff  
 Isabella Percoco  
 Darlene Piraino  
 Michael Pizzi  
 Jaclyn Primiano  
 Erin Randazzo  
 Linda Rini  
 Linda Schneider  
 Lisa Sparacino  
 Mary Squillace  
 Ling Wan-Albert  
 Bill Werner  
 Sara Winter

### ***Management***

Diamando Mojgan Afshari  
 Diamando Afxentiou  
 Kelechi Akazi  
 Joshua E. Bienstock  
 Devrim Birlik  
 Patrick Cheng  
 Petra Dilling  
 James Henry Dunne  
 Mohammad Fakhrabadi  
 Ethan Feng  
 Swapna Gantasala  
 Venugopal Prabhakar Gantasala  
 David Garland  
 Bulent Guzel  
 Peter Harris  
 Xueting Jiang

Moonsoo Kang  
Hamid Kazemi  
John Kent  
Bisrat Kinfemichael  
Colleen Kirk  
Maya Kroumova  
Scott Liu  
Frank Lorne  
Rajan Madan  
Ifeanyi Madu  
Majid Davoodi Makinejad  
Rakesh Mittal  
William Ninchan  
Radoslaw Nowak  
Kevin O'Sullivan  
Tunc Ozelli  
Ibrahim Pekcan  
Venugopal Prabhakar Gantasala  
Mostafa Purmehdi  
Cristina Seaman  
Amba Sekhar  
Shaya Sheikh  
Veneta Sotiropoulos  
Amir Teymourian

Rajendra Tibrewala  
Sang Won Yoon  
Jihong Zeng

### ***Osteopathic Medicine***

Carl Abraham  
Barbara Apoznanski  
Lawrence Barnard  
Brian Beatty  
Diane Becker  
William Blazey  
Troy Camarata  
John Capobianco  
Timothy Devine  
Joanne Donoghue  
Jason Golbin  
Leslie Goldstein  
Christine Hartford  
Matthew Heller  
Simone Hoffmann

Patricia Kooyman  
Bianca Lee  
Adrienne Loftis  
Joseph Mazzie  
Julia Molnar  
Richard Morgan  
Lawrence Northorn  
Michael Oliverio  
Charles Pavia  
Maria Pino  
Maria Plummer  
Sonia Rivera-Martinez  
Paula Ryo  
Monica Schlichting  
Karen Sheflin  
Joseph Simone  
Hilliary Sismondo  
Michael Terzella  
Jennifer Xie  
Sheldon Yao  
Dong Zhang

## College of Arts & Sciences

Thank you for being such a great professor this year! As a freshman and someone who always struggled with math, your course has been the first time I am actually understanding math and doing well. Your teaching style is very accommodating, and your office hours are extremely informative, and I am extremely grateful for them. Although your class is one of the longer lectures I am taking, I enjoy every minute of it! Wishing you all the best in the future, thank you for being such a great professor, and always bringing a smile to everyone's face!

– *Math*

Thank you for making my first year at NYIT an amazing experience! I appreciate your encouragement and greatly enjoyed your concept reviews. You inspire my passion for biology and excitement for learning! I feel very lucky to have worked with you.

– *Biological & Chemical Sciences*

Thank you for reminding me why I love to learn. Your lectures were so attention-grabbing that I decided to sit in on your class again while tutoring the freshmen. As a teacher, your passion for the subject and in ensuring that students comprehend your amazing examples is unrivaled. I can 100% say that it is a privilege to have gotten to learn so much from you over the past two years that we have known each other. You are a huge asset to the Behavioral Sciences department and NYIT as a whole - please know that! One day when I am (hopefully) a physician running on pure adrenaline at the end of a shift, memories of our discussions will get me through it all. Thank you for being you and for bringing your teaching talents every day to our students!

– *Behavioral Sciences*

I wanted to say thank you for an amazing two semesters! I appreciate your encouragement and kindness. Thank you for helping me to stay positive and engaged. I am very lucky to have worked with you! Very best.

– *Physics*

Thank you for being so attentive and dedicated to making sure we understand the topics in class. Your dedication truly made a difference in the way you taught and took the time to have study session on Tuesday nights. It really helped me understand the concepts.

– *Humanities*

It goes without saying how appreciative I am to you professor for your mentorship, advice and recommendation. I am truly lucky to have found such a passionate educator who has displayed genuine concern regarding my career trajectory and next steps in my life. Thank you, professor, for all your support and assistance. You are a gem!

– *Education*

Thank you for such an amazing course. I truly learnt a lot and I enjoyed every single class. I'm glad I took this course. You're really humble, kind, and understanding. One of the best professors I've ever had. Thank you for teaching me so much and always being there to help. I'm really sorry I missed the last couple classes because of my health issues. I wish you the best for the future. I'll miss this class.

– *Behavioral Sciences*

Thank you for your patience and support throughout the two courses from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023. I understand that I performed poorly especially in the fall semester when it came to participating and presenting. There may have not been much improvement in my performance for the spring, however, I appreciate the feedback you gave me behind each presentation. Your kindness has helped me to realize where I need to improve, especially for public speaking. You have made my academic journey very enjoyable especially with your humor and positive affirmations. I am unsure if I will be taking your classes in the future for my degree so I would like to thank you for all you have done for me. I will continue to use your feedback in my academic journey and strive to improve to make up for the mistakes I made in your courses.

– *Behavioral Sciences*

Thank you for being one to the best Chemistry mentors I've had. It was an absolute joy, pleasure, and honor to have you teach me. Thank you for listening to my crazy and slightly lame jokes. There is one final joke: A neutron walked into a bar, and asked the bartender how much is for a drink. The bartender turned and looked at him, and he said: "For you? NO CHARGE." I've waited the entire semester to tell you this joke. I wish I could've gotten your reaction. Again, thank you for being so patient with the entire class, and for doing your best to help us learn chemistry. I wish that I could have you as my Professor again, simply because you are one of my favorite Professors. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

– *Biological & Chemical Sciences*

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the writing and reading course that you taught this semester. Your commitment to our learning and the depth of knowledge you shared with us was exceptional. Throughout the course, I have learned how to analyze, critique and improve my writing skills, which has not only helped me in my academic work but also in my personal life. Your ability to simplify complex concepts and your patience in answering our questions have helped me to understand the subject matter thoroughly. I thought my English writing and grammar was good, but through out the course I realized that I still need to learn a lot of things. I appreciate the time and effort you invested in teaching us, and I am grateful for the insightful feedback and encouragement that you provided us with. Your dedication to our success has been inspiring and has made a significant impact on my education. Once again, thank you for all that you have done. I will always remember your invaluable contributions to my academic growth.

– *Humanities*

## College of Engineering & Computing Sciences

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for all the hard work and guidance you provided throughout the semester. Your knowledge, experience, and passion for the subject matter were evident in every lecture and class activity. Your engaging teaching style, which included practical examples and hands-on learning, made the subject matter come alive and helped me understand the concepts more deeply. I especially appreciated your patience and willingness to answer questions and provide feedback, which helped me grow and learn as a student. I am grateful for the impact you have had on my education and personal growth, and I look forward to applying the lessons I learned in your class to my future endeavors. Thank you again for an amazing semester.

– *Computer Science*

Thank you for your instruction not only in class but also in email communications during non-class time. Your replies are in-time and informative, and I really appreciate them.

– *Energy Management*

As the semester ends, I want to express my sincere gratitude for all you have done for us. Your energetic lectures and passionate delivery have been nothing short of inspiring. You have a unique ability to make complex topics come alive. I want to thank you for thinking of creative ways to engage us in the material. Your concern for the environment has resonated with me deeply, and I feel that I have gained a much deeper understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship through your classes.

– *Environmental Technology*

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for being an amazing teacher this semester. Your classes were always informative, thought-provoking, and, most importantly, entertaining! Your sense of humor and quick wit added a delightful touch to our lectures, making them both enjoyable and memorable. Your expertise in the subject matter was evident, and your ability to explain complex concepts in simple terms was impressive. You have a unique way of making even the driest topics come to life, and your passion for the subject was contagious. Your willingness to engage with students in the classroom was also appreciated. Your door was always open for questions, and your enthusiasm for teaching was evident in every interaction we had. In short, you are a shining example of what it means to be an excellent professor. You have inspired me to pursue further study in this field, and I am grateful for the knowledge and skills I have gained from your classes. Thank you again for being an incredible teacher and mentor.

– *Cybersecurity*

Thank you for opening my eyes on the importance of keeping up to date with latest technology and its advancements. This was by far my favorite course of my entire freshman year and I

wouldn't want to have it any other way. I really enjoyed engaging in opinionated conversations regarding ethics, technology, morals, and so on. At first, I did not know what this course entailed, but I'm so glad I had the opportunity to have this course in my schedule and you as my professor. Thank you again for the effort and meaningful advice that you have given this class. Because of you, I now routinely check the New York Times' Technology section :) .

– *Computer Science*

Thank you so much for teaching this course. Initially, I was not interested in this class but after the attending the first lecture, I was always excited for what we were going to learn next and was always looking forward to the next class. Professor, you made the entire complicated and hard course so much easier to understand.

– *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Thank you, for making a difference for me this semester. I really appreciated your sincere concerns and desire to help me out, for the class and outside of class, relating to my future goals and plans. You allowed to me to see more, a bigger picture, of the reason behind my studies. You even helped me better adjust my future path's direction. Your willingness to always help students and your consideration towards the students could be felt. You consider progress and effort as the most important factor, and that encouraged me to do better. Thank you once again.

– *Mechanical Engineering*

Thank you for your guidance and assistance and for always being prompt in responding to any questions or concerns regarding the coursework or assignments. I genuinely appreciate your humour and vivid explanations during class, which greatly facilitate my understanding of the course material. I am grateful for your willingness to answer any questions about school and the courses providing professional guidance. I look forward to taking more of your classes in the future. Wishing you all the best and continued success!

– *Cybersecurity*

Thank you for providing such an amazing class. Your passion for the subject and dedication to teaching has been evident throughout the semester, and it has made a significant impact on my understanding of the field. Your approach to teaching software engineering has been comprehensive and engaging, and I have learned so much from your lectures, assignments, and projects. Your ability to explain complex concepts in a way that is easy to understand has been invaluable, and I appreciate the effort you have put into ensuring that we all grasp the material. Furthermore, I want to express my gratitude for the time and energy you have put into making sure that each student is achieving their best potential. Your constant support and encouragement have motivated me to work harder and push myself to achieve more. Your feedback and guidance have been instrumental in my growth as a software engineer, and I will always be grateful for that. Once again, thank you for an outstanding class. You have left a lasting impact on my academic and professional career, and I will always remember your teachings and apply them in my future endeavors.

– *Computer Science*

## College of Osteopathic Medicine

Thank you for your encouragement as we learned to critically think through cases and work as a team. With your guidance I learned so much on not only how to care for patients, but how to keep the humanity of the situation at the forefront of my mind so I can be the best physician possible in the future. You made me a better student, a better person, and a better future doctor.

Thank you for being so honest when you talk about your experiences as a health care provider. Thank you for letting us know how to own our mistakes and be professional. Thank you for arranging those clinical practice reflection sessions and sharing your words of wisdom. Thank you for being an amazing associate dean. Thank you so much!

Thank you for being such an amazing teacher and person. Thank you for understanding and respecting my religious obligations for professional attire. Thank you for making jokes while teaching and thank you for all of your mnemonics. Thank you for being an awesome coordinator, teacher and person. Thank you so much!!!

Thank you for encouraging us to keep our humanity during our training, medical school can cause so much stress and hardship but you did your best to keep things fun while also teaching us skills that we can use for our entire careers. I can't thank you enough for reminding us frequently to care for ourselves and find the joy in the profession that we chose.

Thank you for creating a warm and welcoming environment in your class where students are not afraid to be wrong because you'll always correct us in the most knowledgeable and respectable way. You genuinely care for your students and it shows which I feel deserves the recognition so thank you again!



## School of Architecture & Design

I hope you are doing well as I write this. I'm writing to thank you for all the advice and assistance you gave me while I was studying architecture, and I sincerely appreciate it. Your commitment to education and enthusiasm for architecture has significantly impacted my education. Your ability to clearly and entertainingly communicate your expertise, experience, and insights has been genuinely priceless. I want to express my gratitude for being a teacher who inspires and motivates students. Your excitement and passion for architecture have spread like wildfire, and you've given me a newfound respect for the elegance and intricate nature of this field. You have taught me so much, and I am happy I got the chance to have you as a professor. Once more, I want to thank you for all of your effort, devotion, and help during my study. You have had a significant influence on my life, and I will always be appreciative of the time I spent learning from you. I'll always carry your influence with me, and my goal is to live up to your expectations. Sincerely, with the utmost respect and gratitude.

– *Architecture*

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GREAT PROFESSOR. You always had the answers I needed and helped me become a better version of myself. Thank you also for having a great personality and always being ready to teach.

– *Digital Art & Design*

I want to express my sincere gratitude for being a part of your class and providing support through your class. I gained a substantial amount of knowledge from our interactions. Thank you!

– *Digital Art & Design*

Thank you for all you have done for me and my group these past few semesters. I have thoroughly enjoyed the coursework so far and am excited to wrap up our design projects; though I do wish classes were in person, I am grateful to have been under your guidance in my formative years of design school. I hope to see us all together again in the future!

– *Interior Design*

Thank you for the wonderful semester! It was a very inspirational course, I loved all the critique as it made me improve my design and helped me discover new ways of creating drawings. Thank you for taking the time to find unique examples of other pavilions separately for each student, and being involved after class time, such as taking us on a tour to Hearst Tower and joining me and Siva on a workshop for first year students.

– *Architecture*

Thank you for another great semester. You are such an inspiration for me and I'm so grateful for everything I learned from you. You are one of a kind.

– *Interior Design*

## School of Health Professions

Your lectures were always engaging and informative, and I appreciated the effort you put into making the course material accessible and relatable. Your feedback on my assignments was detailed and constructive, and it helped me improve my skills and understanding of the subject. Moreover, your willingness to go above and beyond to provide additional resources and support for us showed your dedication to our learning and development. I am genuinely grateful for everything you have done for us this semester.

– *Interdisciplinary Health Sciences*

Thank you for creating a fun, safe and appropriate learning environment for my cohort and I. You've adapted to our learning styles by adjusting your teaching style- adding pictures, key points, etc. This course, as difficult as it may be, doesn't change the fact that you've become our favorite professor. Thank you for your tips and tricks for studying! We appreciate all the activities you've planned for us, spirit days included, and staying composed in the most difficult of times. You always keep your cool, and spoke to students in a professional manner. Hats off to you! You make Graduate school much more manageable.

– *Occupational Therapy*

I just wanted to thank you for being you! I thank you for always genuinely caring about your students and their well-being. It is not often that students are blessed to have such an amazing Professor to inspire and motivate us. I will be forever grateful to have had you for not only this semester but also last semester. Thanks for being great. Keep being you!

– *Nursing*

Thanks for always believing in me and reminding me what I'm capable of. I've always struggled in sciences but I've never felt more confident than I did learning from you.

– *Occupational Therapy*

Thank you so much for making a difference in my life. You are truly an amazing teacher. The passion you have for teaching and seeing your students succeed is transparent and radiant. Thank you for walking by our side every step of the way and going above and beyond to help your students. You've become available and open to our needs and I cannot thank you enough. Thank you.

– *Nursing*

Thank you for your immense patience and guidance. Your lectures were engaging, informative, and thought-provoking. You challenged me to think critically and pushed me to reach my full potential. Your feedback on my assignments was always detailed, constructive, and helpful, allowing me to improve my writing and analytical skills. Thank you once again for being an outstanding mentor.

– *Interdisciplinary Health Sciences*

## School of Management

I would like to thank you for making this class, the best class of our entire semester. Your ability to facilitate discussion and encourage us to think critically about our own cultural biases and assumptions was truly remarkable. I appreciate how you create a safe space where we could share our personal experiences without judgment, which allowed me to learn from my classmates as well. Your class taught me how to approach different cultures with an open mind and a willingness to learn, rather than make assumptions or rely on stereotypes. This has proven invaluable in both my personal and professional life. I now feel more confident interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds and am better equipped to navigate cross-cultural situations. Thank you for challenging us to think beyond our own experiences and for instilling in us a sense of empathy and cultural sensitivity. Your class has truly made a difference in my life, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned from you.

– *Management & Marketing*

I just wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all that you have done to teach and mentor me. Your dedication and passion for your subject have inspired me to think critically, learn deeply, and grow as a student. Your insightful feedback and thoughtful guidance have been invaluable in shaping my academic and personal growth, and I feel truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from you. Thank you for all that you have done to help me become the best version of myself.

– *Accounting & Finance*

I want to express my appreciation for your profound impact on my growth and learning during my time in your class. Your ability to nurture creativity within your students has been truly inspiring. Although I may not have achieved my best grade under your guidance, the lessons I learned from my mistakes in your class have been the most valuable. Your unwavering support and dedication to our improvement have left a lasting impression on me. Your class was undeniably my favourite, and it taught me the importance of continuously striving to improve. I sincerely admire you as a professor and am grateful for the knowledge and insights you shared.

– *Management & Marketing*

I want to express my gratitude for your incredible work this semester. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to creating a meaningful and engaging learning experience for us. I especially appreciated how you made the material come alive through your use of real-world examples and case studies. I also want to thank you for your approachability and willingness to provide support whenever needed. You created a warm and welcoming classroom environment where everyone felt comfortable asking questions and sharing their thoughts. I felt that you genuinely cared about our success and were always available to help us in any way you could. Thank you.

– *Management & Marketing*