

# THANK A PROFESSOR

## 2023-2024

### **What is Thank a Professor?**

The Center for Teaching & Learning offers a “Thank a Professor” initiative to enable students to recognize faculty members whose efforts helped create an outstanding experience for them. Students can send personalized messages to faculty, and each faculty member receives a letter and certificate with the student’s message, with copies going to department chairs. Deans and vice presidents receive a summary listing all faculty recognized by the students, accompanied by selected messages from each school or college. We are sharing these notes with the permission of the students, and have removed any identifying information.

**In the 2023-2024 academic year, 478 students completed 803 submissions, recognizing a total of 296 faculty members and acknowledging their hard work and dedication.**

Since the inception of the program in January 2021, 1570 students completed 2947 submissions, recognizing a total of 680 faculty members

## Thank a Professor Recipients, Academic Year 2023-2024

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 2023-2024 academic year, **478 students completed 803 submissions, recognizing a total of 296 faculty members** and acknowledging their hard work and dedication. Recipients include:

### Architecture & Design

Matthias Altwicker  
John Bermudez  
Elliot Cowan  
Maria Cumella  
John DeFazio  
Maria Di Natale  
John Doria  
Francesca Romana Forlini  
Brigid Hardiman  
Adi Laho  
Christopher Lee  
Charles Matz  
Beau McGhee  
Alessandro Melis  
Andrea Merks  
Michael Posso  
Gabrielle Redding  
Steven Sculco  
Clarke Snell  
Danielle Thibodeau  
Alessandra Wood

Eve Armstrong  
Lissi Athanasiou-Krikelis  
Nkosi Bandele  
Madhabi Barua  
Chinmoy Bhattacharjee  
Julie Black  
Patrick Cadet  
Vincent Calabrese  
Daniel Calderone  
Nicole Calma-Roddin  
Asok Chaudhuri  
Yusui Chen  
Anthony Dimatteo  
Sophia Domokos  
Hassan El Houari  
James Fauvell  
Minaz Fazal  
Marni Finkelstein  
Jole Fiorito  
Donald Fizzinoglia  
Franca Foligatti  
Claude Gagna  
Michael Gamble  
Nahid Ghani  
Bryan Gibb  
Amanda Golden

Joanne Grasso  
Jennifer Griffiths  
Yusuf Gurtas  
Shin-Ru He  
Melissa Huey  
Arshad Imam  
Nilufar Inamdar  
Uma Iyer  
Scott Jarvis  
Lori Jirousek-Falls  
Marcus Johnson  
Ieisha Jones  
Chrisoula Kalogiannis  
Felisa Kaplan  
Dina Karafantis  
Vitaly Katsnelson  
Jacqueline Keighron  
Neelam Lahankar  
Maria LaPadula Perez  
Sophie Lavin Christman  
Seth LeJacq  
Faranot Leon  
William Letsou  
Michael Lisbin  
Vinh Ly  
Jill Macdonald

### Arts & Sciences

Jason Adkins  
Robert Alexander

Tracy McGoldrick  
Giovanni Meloni  
Victoria Mingione  
Calisto Mudzingwa  
Christian Nahas  
Emily Olmsted  
Jungho Park  
Shahrzad Parvaresh  
Sanjay Patel  
Ana Petrovic  
Sharon Petrushka  
Gabrielle Platz  
Navin Pokala  
Ange Quapp  
Emily Restivo  
Yael Roitberg  
Dennis Rowen  
Ranja Roy  
Anne Sanderson  
Michael Schiavi  
Stan Silverman  
Anna Silverstein  
Heather Stansbury  
Konstantinos Stroumbakis  
Rex Taibu  
Afife Tansel  
Spencer Turkel  
Michael Uttendorfer  
Martin Vasas  
Amanda Vasquez  
Marina Vinitskaya  
Stephen Wade  
Baole Wen  
Xiaoyan Yang  
Melda Yildiz  
Mena Youssef

## **Engineering & Computing Sciences**

Sayed Ahmad  
Maherukh Akhtar

Folashade Alawiye  
Zakaria Alomari  
Lak Amara  
Robert Amundsen  
N. Sertac Artan  
Victor Badejo  
Kiran Balagani  
Soyeb Barot  
Alain Boldini  
Arman Bonakdarpour  
Houwei Cao  
Remi Charron  
Jerry Cheng  
Michael Colef  
Cecilia Dong  
Robert Doxey  
John Eff  
Taoufik Ennoure  
Mostafa Esmaeili  
David Fanning  
Yuki Gao  
Susan Gass  
Paolo Gasti  
Huanying Gu  
Yongjian Gu  
Bulent Guzel  
Maryam Hamidi Rad  
Tanweer Haroon  
Yan Hong  
Xueqing Huang  
Seow Mun Hue  
Azhar Ilyas  
Ayat Jafari  
Seyed Amirmostafa  
Jourabchi  
Lloyd Jura  
Ehsan Kamel Hedayat  
Abad  
Rachit Kapoor  
Momchil Karov  
Patricia Keen  
Sara Khanchi  
Wenjia Li

Zhida Li  
Qin Liang  
Qin Liu  
Tokunbo Makanju  
Juliana Mariano  
Eric Mazzi  
Amin Milani Fard  
Saeed Mirjalili  
Khalid Mirza  
Kirti Mishra  
Sneha Mutta Bhogesh  
Nancy Nabatian  
David Nadler  
Michael Nizich  
Kristen Panella  
Lazaros Pavlidis  
Mohammad Rahnama  
Max Razavi  
Samuel Rostam  
Deepak Rout  
George M Salayka  
Anand Santhanakrishnan  
Joseph Sassoon  
James Scire  
Joseph Seidel  
Maharshi Shah  
Yunlong Shao  
Vishal Sharma  
Tina Shoa Hassani  
Lashidani  
Altion Simo  
Sergiy Sokolovskiy  
Stefan Storey  
Cristian Suvagau  
John Valente  
Sabiha Wadoo  
Chris Wernicki  
Liangwen Wu  
Umme Zakia  
Steven Zanganeh  
Wei Zeng  
Tao Zhang

## **Health Professions**

Zehra Ahmed  
Amy Bravo  
Michael Chaiken  
Jaclyn Cotgreave  
Donna Darcy  
Robert Gallagher  
Pamela Karp  
Yogeeta Kuldip  
Chih-Yuan Li  
Mary Frances McGibbon  
Daniel Moscato  
Eva Pearson  
Kristine Prazak-Davoli  
Jaclyn Primiano  
Linda Schneider  
Jessica Varghese  
Sara Winter

## **Management**

Diamando Afxentiou  
Kelechi Akazi  
Digant Bahl  
Joshua Bienstock  
Robert Bohn  
Anne Brown  
Kathleen Casale  
Sinan Caykoynu  
Aiko Chan  
Samer Charbaji  
Patrick Cheng  
Deborah Y. Cohn  
Majid Davoodi  
Makinejad  
Stephen Deller  
Mohammad Fakhrabadi

Venugopal Prabhakar  
Gantasala  
Vidita Gawade  
Peter Harris  
Alan Holzer  
Wenyao Hu  
Moonsoo Kang  
Japneet Kaur  
Hamid Kazemi  
Charles Kelly  
Bisrat Kinfemichael  
Colleen Kirk  
Dawn Kogler  
Maya Kroumova  
Paul Kutasovic  
John LaPerla  
Tianze Li  
Frank Lorne  
Ifeanyi Madu  
Rakesh Mittal  
Raja Nag  
William Ninehan  
Kevin O'Sullivan  
Tunc Ozelli  
Mostafa Purmehdi  
Davit Sahakyan  
Ellie Schwartz  
Cristina Seaman  
Amba Sekhar  
Shaya Sheikh  
Veneta Sotiropoulos  
Amir Teymourian  
Rajendra Tibrewala  
Jihong Zeng  
He Zhang

## **Osteopathic Medicine**

Reem Abu-Sbaih  
Bardia Askari  
Stephen Bambas  
Jonathan Berman  
William Blazey  
Thomas Chan  
Joanne Donoghue  
Michael Gindi  
Leslie Goldstein  
Matthew Heller  
Thomas Lewellen  
Steven Lewis  
Donna-Marie McMahon  
Matthew Mhlbachler  
Charles Pavia  
Maria Plummer  
Bernadette Riley  
Isabela Romao  
Mitzi Scotten  
Karen Sheflin  
Joy Skaug  
Tony Slieman  
Amy Suessle  
Nathan Thompson  
Simone Thompson  
Thomas Woods  
Jennifer Xie  
William Zaloga

## *College of Arts & Sciences*

I am grateful to you for sharing your experience, expertise, and wisdom in the most challenging class I've had to date, yet it is one of my favorites. You challenged me to reach higher and further than I thought I could while at the same time offering grace, kindness, and compassion when my life was turned upside down. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

- Math



Thank you for your patience and guidance throughout Introduction to Modern Physics. Coming into the class, I found the material quite challenging at first. However, your clear explanations and engaging lectures helped me break down the complex concepts and truly grasp the fascinating world of modern physics. I especially appreciated the extra credit opportunities you allowed. Those opportunities not only boosted my grade but gave me a chance to delve deeper into trying to understand physics and its history. Your passion for the subject was contagious, and it motivated me to delve deeper into the material. Thanks to your effective teaching, I was able to not only understand the material but also develop a newfound appreciation for this field. I am confident that the knowledge I gained in your class will be valuable as I continue my studies.

- Physics



You are the best, more caring professor I have ever had. Thank you for being so understanding and always having orange juice just in case I went low. You have made so many dark days sunny. I did not think I would like this class, but I ended up really enjoying it thanks to you. I learned so much from you and came out so much better. Thank you for everything hopefully I have another class with you before I graduate.

- Psychology & Counseling

Thank you for your guidance and for always caring about us not only as students but also as future educators. Your insight this semester has been invaluable. I have learned a tremendous amount from you and I can't wait to use the teaching strategies I have learned on my future endeavors as an educator. I am grateful for your continued mentorship and look forward to being colleagues one day.

- Education



Thank you for being an immensely kind, understanding and dedicated teacher. You have always encouraged students to freely ask questions so that they wouldn't feel confused about the topics that you teach. Also, thank you for being a huge help during office hours. It helped me fully understand the specifics of certain topics, such as the acid-base reactions. I hope that you continue to be supportive to those in your future classes.

- Biological & Chemical Sciences



Thank you for your unwavering commitment to your students. Taking your courses has strengthened both my writing ability and my capabilities in communications in a professional setting. I am truly grateful for your mentorship, and for the invaluable skills I have honed while taking your courses.

- Humanities



Thank you for teaching me about medical anthropology! Our discussions were always very engaging and I feel like I learned so much about medical anthropology, and culture and now have a better understanding of how it all interplays together. Our discussions and readings challenged me to think critically about health disparities and the social determinants of health. Thank you for your commitment to education and for making such a profound impact on my educational experience.

- Psychology & Counseling

## *College of Engineering & Computing Sciences*

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for your dedication throughout the course. Your lessons were so planned out and the ability to simplify complicated lessons efficiently really helped me understand database systems on a much better level as well as make it interesting to me. Without fail, at the end of each class session, I not only understood the day's lesson but also felt motivated to go more into it. I've been considering going into the data science world, but this class helped me understand my passion for working with data and confirmed my choice to go forward in DS.

- Computer Science

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Thank you for your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in shaping our minds and nurturing our growth. Your passion for teaching shines through in every lesson, inspiring us to strive for excellence. Your patience, encouragement, and wisdom have made a profound impact on our lives, and we are truly grateful for the knowledge and skills you have imparted to us. Your commitment to our education has not gone unnoticed, and we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for all you do. Thank you for being an exceptional teacher and for making a difference in our lives.

- Computer Science

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I want to express my deep gratitude for your exceptional teaching from my undergraduate days in probability and statistics to the advanced topics in this course. Your unique approach to complex topics not only clarified them but also inspired a passion for further exploration in machine learning. Each class was more engaging than the last, encouraging me to experiment with various ML algorithms and architectures on my own. Thank you for everything; your impact on my educational journey has been truly profound.

- Computer Science

Thank you for being an exceptional professor. Undoubtedly, you rank among the finest at NYIT. Your instruction has provided me with a wealth of knowledge crucial to my success in your class. I'm truly grateful to have had you as my professor.

- Electrical & Computer Engineering

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Thank you for your instruction. I have not only gained a deeper understanding of thermodynamics but also acquired practical skills that extend beyond the classroom. Your teachings have not only equipped me with the necessary tools but have also inspired me to delve further into this fascinating subject. Your mentorship has made a profound impact on my academic journey, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn from you.

- Energy Management

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Thank you for your time and dedication while teaching. You made learning SQL very clear and concise. The lectures were spaced out great and easy to understand. Thank you for teaching this class.

- Computer Science

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I wanted to take a moment to express my extreme gratitude for teaching an inspiring course. Your dedication to the course and your commitment to helping students succeed have truly made a difference in my academic journey. I also appreciate your approachability and willingness to go the extra mile to ensure that students understand the material and feel supported. Your passion for energy modeling-related software is contagious, and it has fueled my own enthusiasm for the subject. Thank you once again for everything you do. Your guidance has been invaluable, and I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity to learn from you.

- Energy Management



## *School of Architecture & Design*

Thank you for being such a fantastic guide in the world of UX research! Your classes were more than just a dive into research methods—they were like a treasure hunt, with each lecture revealing new and exciting things about the UX field. Your energy and enthusiasm made even the toughest concepts feel like a breeze. I loved how you always had real-world examples to keep us on our toes. I'm officially hooked on UX research. You didn't just teach the subject; you made it come alive, and I can't wait to explore it further. So, here's to you—thank you for making learning fun and inspiring! I hope we cross paths again soon.

- Digital Art & Design



Thank you for your immense patience, guidance and dedication to teaching. This has been an incredible year and you have helped me grow professionally, academically and most importantly your positive attitude has healed all of us in your studio. The world needs more professors like you. I am grateful for your mentorship and honored to have been your student.

- Architecture



I want to thank you for being my professor. During a time of uncertainty, you pushed me, along with your fellow students, to our fullest potential in architectural design. Your willingness to help others and your understanding of the materials makes you one of the school's favorites. You are, without a shadow of a doubt, a great professor in every sense of the word.

- Architecture

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the calm and composed atmosphere you bring to the class. Even though most of us have little to no coding experience, you managed to teach us so well. Your teaching style is so effective that I feel like no one else could have done it better. You are an ideal teacher who helps us with even the silliest mistakes with great patience. If there's one person who taught me how to code, it's you. I also enjoyed your UX foundation course last semester. I could write a lot more, but to sum it up, you deserve all the appreciation and recognition for being an outstanding professor.

- Digital Art & Design



Thank you for always putting the learning ahead of the work. You strive to make class a no stress environment while still maintaining high expectations for our work and it actually works. I've learned so much from you, but what makes you stand out from other professors is that you make learning enjoyable. This class is at 8:45 in the morning and I still look forward to it every single week- that's hard to come by and it's you who made it possible. Thanks so much for all of your support!!

- Digital Art & Design



Thank you Professor for making freshman year such an amazing experience for me. I was always interested in architectural history, and this was the class that I looked forward to the most at the beginning of the semester. I absolutely love your passion for teaching, and I admire the effort you put into each of your lectures, and how you always create a comfortable environment for us to feel free to say anything. As a south asian Muslim, I also love how you talk about different historical structures from around the world, not only about first world countries. I have yet to encounter another professor who discusses work from south asian countries or Islamic buildings. You have become one my favorite teachers/professors and I look forward to having more classes with you in the future. Thank you once again.

- Interior Design

## *School of Health Professions*

Thank you for teaching us so many different aspects of medicine this year. We worked together in Physiology, Cardiology, and Clinical Laboratory Medicine and it has been a fantastic experience. Your funny stories always tied into the lecture and helped us remember key ideas. Most of all, I appreciated how approachable you were to the students. I felt that if something was going on and I needed someone to talk to, you were there to listen. I am grateful to be one of your students. Have a great summer.

- Physician Assistant Studies



Your classes have been the highlight of my semester, offering engaging insights into the importance of data and information in today's digital landscape. Your teachings have not only broadened my understanding but have also instilled in me a new sense of critical thinking, particularly concerning the validity and bias prevalent in online content. Additionally, your lessons on data visualization and data misrepresentation have equipped me with essential skills that I am eager to apply in my future career as a data analytics major student. I am immensely grateful for the knowledge and inspiration you have imparted to me, which I believe will serve as a solid foundation for my professional aspirations. Thank you for your dedication to your students and for being a mentor whom I greatly admire.

- Interdisciplinary Health Sciences



Thank you for your patience, dedication, and compassion in teaching us, despite it being super early in the morning. Your enthusiasm in teaching and stories of your journey as a nurse helped make the small time we had very memorable and enjoyable. I felt like it was just yesterday when you said that the semester will fly by and before we knew it, it's finals. Thank you for your wholehearted compassion into our development as nurses and I will remember my experiences as your student for years to come. I can't wait for research!

- Nursing

Thank you for being you! Your kind energy and easy-going nature made a three hour lecture feel like nothing. You are attentive to students, understanding, and I love your sharing of personal OT experiences. Any student would be lucky to have you as a professor and I sure hope I have another class with you again in the future!

- Occupational Therapy



Thank you for such an inspirational and educational semester. I have learned so much about being a better provider and better human being in this course. I hope to get my elective rotation with you next year!

- Physician Assistant Studies



Thank you for making the material so easy to understand with stories, making it easy to go back to what was said in class with the recordings, and always being available to help us when there was any confusion about the material taught. We really appreciate it and are grateful for all that you've done to help us.

- Nursing



Thank you for making this class so conversation based! You are a professor with so much knowledge and your ability to engage our class so easily is really awesome to be a part of.

- Occupational Therapy

## *School of Management*

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional guidance and support throughout my academic journey. Your insightful lectures and willingness to assist in all situations have been invaluable. Your dedication to fostering a supportive learning environment and your passion for teaching have truly inspired me. Thank you for shaping my academic growth and for always going above and beyond for your students. Your mentorship has had a profound impact on my development, and I am grateful for the lasting lessons and encouragement you've provided. Thank you for everything.

- Quantitative & Analytics



As the semester concludes, I want to take a moment to thank you for an outstanding management class. Your ability to break down complex concepts into manageable, real-life scenarios greatly enhanced my understanding and interest in the subject. I appreciate your consistent encouragement and the rigorous yet fair environment you maintained, which was crucial in helping me develop my skills and confidence. I look forward to carrying these lessons forward into my future endeavors. Thank you once again for a memorable and educational semester.

- Marketing & Management



Thank you so much for being an amazing marketing professor! Your classes were always so engaging, and your passion for the subject really rubbed off on me. I learned a ton from you, not just about marketing theory, but also about how to think critically and creatively approach challenges in the field. I really appreciated how you kept us up-to-date with the latest industry trends and brought real-life examples into the classroom. It made everything feel so relevant and practical. Your encouragement to question assumptions and push boundaries has given me the confidence to tackle any marketing problem that comes my way. But it wasn't just about what happened in class. Your support and mentorship outside of lectures meant the world to me. You've helped me grow both personally and professionally, and I can't thank you enough for that. Your influence will stay with me as I continue my journey in marketing, and I'll always be grateful for everything.

- Marketing & Management

I wanted to take a moment to express my immense gratitude for the incredible semester. Your brilliance and expertise have made each class a fascinating journey into the complexities of the subject. Your ability to simplify intricate concepts while maintaining depth has been truly inspiring. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and passion, and for challenging us to think critically and analytically. Your dedication to teaching has undoubtedly left a profound impact on me.

- LEAF



Thank you for being such a dedicated and enthusiastic professor. My classmates and I felt very supported this entire semester which is such a blessing to us given the stresses of third year. We all appreciate how organized you were with the modules and assignments and how straight forward you made learning the material.

- Marketing & Management



Thank you for your invaluable support and guidance this semester, both in my academic pursuits and in securing a relevant role at a Canadian company. Your guidance was supportive in helping me navigate the challenges I faced in this new position. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities you've provided.

- Marketing & Management



Thank you professor for inspiring and motivating us with practical advice and essential skills necessary for succeeding and establishing ourselves in our careers. Your lectures have consistently captivated me, and despite my background in finance, I've continually gained new insights from each one. I deeply admire your dedication and expertise in the field of finance, and I look forward to absorbing as much knowledge as possible from you before I complete my studies.

- LEAF

## *College of Osteopathic Medicine*

I just wanted to drop you a note to say a massive thank you for everything you've done for me during my time studying anatomy and beyond. Your teaching style made the subject come alive, and I really appreciate how you connected it to physiology and patient care—it made all the difference. Having the opportunity to shadow at your clinic was eye-opening, getting to see firsthand the diversity of patients and the importance of empathy in every interaction. Your passion for teaching and your compassionate approach to patient care are truly inspiring. I feel incredibly lucky to have had the chance to learn from you. Your emphasis on empathy is something I'll carry with me throughout my medical career and beyond. Thanks again for everything!

- Clinical Sciences-Family Medicine

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I really appreciated how kind you were and how you made the material easy to learn. You had such an encouraging, informal but respectful method! It made my day when I came back and you remembered who I was.

- Clinical Sciences-Osteopathic Manipulative  
Medicine

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I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional support and guidance throughout our endocrinology unit this semester. Your expertise and insights have been instrumental in enhancing my understanding of the subject and preparing me for my upcoming boards. Meeting you during our trip to Ghana was a memorable experience, and I genuinely value the knowledge and perspectives you shared with me as it sparked an interest in Endocrinology for me. Although I will be off campus for rotations next year, I hope I can stay connected and continue to learn from you. Thank you once again for your mentorship and support.

- Clinical Sciences-Clinical Specialties

Thank you for your encouragement and helpful DPR lessons. With your help, I am inspired to become a more relatable doctor like you.

- Clinical Sciences-Clinical Specialties

Thank you for being a great leader of Case-Based Learning discussions and for being a consistent friendly presence on campus. I appreciate how you invited us in CBL to share our thoughts and also challenged us to back up those ideas with reason or resources. The way you encouraged us to be self-critical has helped me grow as a person. And I enjoy how you consistently make a point of saying hello to students on campus. Our conversations were always a fun break from long days of studying!

- Basic Sciences-Biomedical Sciences

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Thank you so much for your care and dedication to teaching us pathology! I appreciate your detailed and clear lectures and the extra effort you put into making study guides and putting together Qmax quizzes for us on ScholarRx. With all of the stressors we face as medical students, I feel relieved when I see that our block contains your lectures. My friends and I know that we can count on you to support us as we learn the material. We are so honored to be your students!

- Clinical Sciences-Clinical Specialties

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Thank you for being so supportive and generous with your time when I took anatomy. The first semester of medical school was the toughest transition of my life and anatomy presented a major challenge. You frequently made time to answer my many questions. You also helped me to understand the kind of effort I needed to make in order to do well in medical school. Thank you for your time, encouragement, and skillful teaching!

- Basic Sciences-Anatomy