

THANK A PROFESSOR

2024-2025

The Center for Teaching & Learning is proud to offer the "Thank a Professor" initiative, which gives students an opportunity to recognize faculty members who have made a meaningful impact on their academic experience. Through this initiative, students submit personalized messages of appreciation, which are then shared with the honored faculty members as a letter and certificate. Department chairs also receive copies of the recognition.

This booklet has been prepared for deans and vice presidents as a summary of faculty recognized by students across the schools and colleges. It includes selected messages of appreciation submitted by students. All messages are shared with the students' permission, and any identifying information has been removed.

Since the program's launch in January 2021, 1,938 students have submitted 3,730 messages of appreciation, recognizing 777 faculty members.



Thank a Professor Recipients, Academic Year 2024-2025

In the 2024-2025 academic year, **461 students completed 783 submissions, recognizing a total of 328 faculty members** and acknowledging their hard work and dedication. This academic year marked a new milestone, with a record 328 faculty members receiving messages—the highest number in a single year. Recipients include:

Michael Posso

Steven Sculco

Victoria Smith

Jeannette Sordi

Alexander Stephani

Heidi Theunissen

Evan Shieh

Clarke Snell

Brian Taylor

Andrew Seskunas

Al Reid

Architecture & Design

Nicholas Agneta Matthias Altwicker Daniel Avilan Medina Carlos Balza Gerardino

John Bermudez Christian Camacho

Robert Cody Elliot Cowan

Marcella Del Signore

Maria Di Natale David Diamond Fadhil Fadhil Janet Fink

Mathew Ford

Francesca Romana Forlini

Francesca Romana
Jonathan Friedman
Michael Hosenfeld
Catherine Joseph
Hyun-Tae Jung
Matthew Kennedy
Christine Kerigan
Dongsei Kim
Christopher Lee
Beau McGhee
Barbora Melis
Brian Messana

Nidhi Nanjappa

Athina Papadopoulou

Joseph Vasikauskas Tom Verebes James Wood Mashiyat Zaman

Arts & Sciences

Robert Alexander Allison Astudillo Barrie Balter Nkosi Bandele Chester Barkan Madhabi Barua Saman Bastami Carol Bilsky-Bieniek Vincent Calabrese Daniel Cinotti Arlene Crandall Halina Diener Melissa DiMartino Chris Douvris Minaz Fazal Claude Gagna Michael Gamble Amanda Golden Jonathan Goldman

Derek Graf Yusuf Gurtas Alana Hatley Jessica Hautsch Cameka Hazel Shin-Ru He Fanita Henderson Arshad Imam

Uma Iyer Leroy Jemison Ieisha Jones

Chrisoula Kalogiannis Dina Karafantis Vitaly Katsnelson Jacqueline Keighron

Yasaman Keypour Nayoung Kim Joshua Kingman Joel Kouame Neelam Lahankar Patricia Lauren

Hwi Lee Tan-na Lee William Letsou Michael Lisbin Laihan Luo Vinh Ly

Zachary McGuirk Shalaka Metkar John Misak Ann Murray

Eleni Nikitopoulos Kate E. O'Hara Emily Olmsted Jungho Park Douglas Parker Shahrzad Parvaresh

Shahrzad Parvares.
Sanjay Patel
Amol Patwardhan
Ana Petrovic
Sharon Petrushka
Gabrielle Platz
Navin Pokala
Ange Quapp
Kevin Rank
Emily Restivo
Yael Roitberg

Milton Ruiz Leonidas Salichos Anne Sanderson Michael Schiavi Laurence Sechter

Dennis Rowen

Ranja Roy

Henry Ruiz

Tracey Segal-Nachamie

Stan Silverman Anna Silverstein Heather Stansbury

Rex Taibu Martin Vasas Stephen Wade Baole Wen Jing Wu

Xiaoyan Yang

Gennady Yassiyevich

Mena Youssef Roger Yu

Engineering & Computing Sciences

Fatemeh Ahmadi Abkenari

Kazi Ahmed Maherukh Akhtar Folashade Alawiye Zakaria Alomari Lak Amara

Robert Amundsen Kiran Balagani Soyeb Barot Kiran Bhujle Alain Boldini

Arman Bonakdarpour Damon Bruccoleri

Houwei Cao Remi Charron Jerry Cheng Michael Colef Cecilia Dong Robert Doxey Taoufik Ennoure

Mohammad Fakoorpakdaman

Felix Fischman
Brian Galli
Susan Gass
Paolo Gasti
Peter Goldsmith
Huanying Gu
Yongjian Gu
Bulent Guzel
Tanweer Haroon
Yan Hong

Yan Hong Tindaro Ioppolo Ashkan Jangodaz Jonathan Johrden

Seyed Amirmostafa Jourabchi

Lloyd Jura Ehsan Kamel Patricia Keen Azim Keshtkar Sara Khanchi Chee-Meng Lee

Fang Li Wenjia Li Zheng Li Zhida Li Qin Liang Ju Seop Lim Qin Liu

Tokunbo Makanju Michael Makdisi Baljeet Malhotra Richard Meyers Amin Milani Fard Khalid Mirza Sharon Morris

Sneha Mutta Bhogesh

Michael Nizich Maryam Ravan Max Razavi Neil Rosen Samuel Rostam Yoshi Saito

George M Salayka

Anand Santhanakrishnan

Joseph Sassoon
James Scire
Joseph Seidel
Yunlong Shao
Tina Shoa
Stefan Storey
Jeffrey Ting
Michael Walsh
Pamelyn Witteman
Umme Zakia
Steven Zanganeh

Wei Zeng

Health Professions

Zehra Ahmed

Amy Bravo

Anyi Chen

Yennie Armand

Christopher Breen

Evette Cordoba

John Crenny

Donna Darcy

Noura El Habbal

Shaina Flanzraich

Laura Madeleine

Friedland-Stulbaum

Jaclyn Cotgreave Mary Jeanne Creamer Management

Diamando Afxentiou Sanuj Kumar Agrawal

Kelechi Akazi Stacey Baez Ivan Bakrac Faycal Bouguir Ute Broedje Sinan Caykoylu Samer Charbaji

Majid Davoodi Makinejad Mohammad Fakhrabadi Swapna Gantasala

Vidita Gawade Reza Ghaeli

Robert Gallagher Gazi MD Daud Iqbal

Kathleen Garcia Bhawika Jain

Eric Greenberg Harpreet Singh Kahlon

Cheryl Hall Hamid Kazemi
John Handrakis Charles Kelly
Pamela Karp John Kent

Yogeeta Kuldip Bisrat Kinfemichael

Mya Laurencon Colleen Kirk Sarah Leibowitz Maya Kroumova Paul Kutasovic Anthony Longo Tianze Li Devorah Lucas Frank Lorne Matthew Masciandaro Ifeanyi Madu Mary Frances McGibbon Rajeev Maharaj JoAnn Montecalvo Rakesh Mittal Daniel Moscato

Jaclyn PrimianoRaja NagAmerigo RossiRadoslaw NowakLinda SchneiderKevin O'SullivanMary SquillaceTunc Ozelli

Michael Tautonico

Jessica Varghese

William Wall

Derrick Webster

Corri Wolf

Nancy Wolinski

Mostafa Purmehdi

Aalia Rafique

Ellie Schwartz

Cristina Seaman

Amba Sekhar

Shaya Sheikh

Veneta Sotiropoulos Amir Teymourian Joo-Kwang Yun Sahel Zaboli Jihong Zeng He Zhang

Osteopathic Medicine

Adena Leder

Reem Abu-Sbaih Joerg Leheste Denise Antonelle-Maria Levada To Shan Li Mahoney Chimere Ashley Adrienne Loftis Lewis Bass Jamie Malary Richard Morgan Brian Beatty Quinyatta Mumford John Boulet

Maria Alicia Carrillo Kaie Ojamaa William Palmer Sepulveda Thomas Chan Maria Pino Maria Plummer Stephen Dirusso Joanne Donoghue Karen Poole Michael Gindi Bernadette Riley Leslie Goldstein Isabela Romao Anthony Guerne Paula Ryo Gabby Guilhon Mitzi Scotten Adam Hurst Karen Sheflin Patricia Kooyman Joy Skaug **Brookshield Laurent** Tony Slieman Jennifer Xie

Thomas Zimmerman



College of Arts & Sciences

Thank you for being the most reliable, kind, and genuinely caring professor at NYIT. I cannot put into words how much I appreciate you working with me for the past five years, even after you were my academic advisor and also after I graduated, to ensure that I made it into NYITCOM. Your optimism and advice are second to none and you are truly an asset to NYIT as both a professor and mentor. From the spring of 2020 when I met you at an orientation session before the pandemic up until now, you have never failed to communicate with me and ensure that I am on the pathway to success in my future. I am quite confident in saying that any student that is lucky enough to be enrolled in one of your courses or is blessed with you as their advisor will certainly be on the path to success. Despite remote learning, difficult courses, and the MCAT, you helped me persevere to get where I am now as an NYITCOM student. And for that, I will always be grateful to you.

Biological & Chemical Sciences

I am truly grateful for all the support, guidance, and patience you have shown throughout this course. Your monthly meetings provided much-needed clarity and reassurance, and your modeling of concepts made it easier for me to apply what I've learned directly into my daily teaching. Your encouragement and understanding, especially during my illness, meant so much. Thank you for helping me better understand my students and grow as an educator.

Education

Thank you for the support, guidance, and inspiration you've provided throughout this course. Your passion for the subject and dedication to your students have truly made a lasting impact on me. I've not only gained valuable knowledge, but I've developed a deeper appreciation for the material thanks to your engaging teaching style and thoughtful feedback.

Humanities



Thank you for everything this semester. Your patience, understanding, and the way you support students means more than words can say. You didn't rush to submit grades just to be done with it; instead, you gave us the chance to grow, to do better, and to be heard. That says a lot about the kind of educator—and person—you are. There were moments when I felt overwhelmed, but your encouragement kept me grounded. You always made time for us, and it showed. I'm honestly very grateful to have had your guidance. This class taught me more than just content—it taught me how to think critically, work ethically, and communicate with care. Thank you again for believing in us and showing so much support.

Humanities

It's hard not to look back at my journey over the last two semesters—Fall 2024 and Spring 2025—and truly be grateful for your commitment and influence as I grow into a future mental health counselor. You are the person a thorough educator should be, especially when working with adult learners. Your drive, passion, and commitment to excellence pushed me to more profound knowledge and ignited a personal and professional growth momentum I never knew existed. Your gift of connecting with, challenging, and supporting your students will stay with me forever. You've exemplified what it means to lead with heart and intellect, and your impact in the classroom has been nothing less than transformational." However, stepping into the clinical world, I will always have your teachings, encouragement, and high standards. You've raised the bar for what I hope to bring into my practice—compassion, clarity, and an undisputed commitment to purpose. I am grateful for you being a guiding light for this chapter of my life. You will always be a source of context and motivation in my path.

Psychology & Counselling

Thank you for being one of the most inspiring professors I have ever had. Your passion for teaching, your kindness, and your dedication to every student truly made this class special. You didn't just teach us the material-you made us think, reflect, and grow. Your clear explanations, patience, and encouragement helped me believe in myself, even when the subject felt challenging. You created a classroom environment where I felt supported and motivated to give my best. I'm deeply grateful for everything you've done and proud to have been your student. Thank you for making such a lasting impact on my academic journey.

Math



College of Engineering & Computing Sciences

Your faith in us and work in instilling in this generation of future entrepreneurs' mindset has gone far beyond a transformative experience. You took a chance on us and made the frightening task of starting a startup feel approachable and achievable. Through your guidance, you've helped us find our voices, pushed us beyond our comfort zones, and taught us to embrace challenges with confidence. I deeply appreciate the stories and articles you share at the start of class as it inspired me to think critically. Your eagerness to listen to our ideas and your willingness to share insights and resources to help us grow as future entrepreneurs mean so much. For me personally, being given the honor to attend the LISA Awards ceremony was an incredible opportunity, which is just one of many ways you've gone above and beyond to support your students. Your enthusiasm, your energy and your determination have not only motivated us but also given us the skills to accomplish a lot in our entrepreneurial journey. Thank you for taking a chance on me and admitting me to the NESTS course and Co-op. NESTS rocks and I hope I've made you proud.

- Computer Science

Thank you for teaching the way you do. Easily my favorite professor that I have in my first semester here at NYIT. I looked forward to your class every week and enjoyed learning the subject in your class. I will always appreciate how clear your lessons were and how you at least cracked a smile at us to make a joke here and there, it made the class feel relatable. I hope I get real lucky and find more professors like you here in the future. Best of luck.

- Electrical & Computer Engineering

This has been the most practical and informative course I have taken at NYIT. Teaching computer applications is no easy task, given the many intricate details involved. Your patience and guidance throughout the course have been deeply appreciated. As someone preparing for a career in this field, this course and your outstanding instruction have greatly boosted my confidence. Thank you, Professor!

- Energy Management



Thank you for your incredible dedication and the way you've structured our class! Your passion for the subject really shines through, and it made diving into the complexities of energy systems so much more engaging. You've taken those abstract concepts and made them super clear and actionable. I really appreciate how you connected theory to real-world applications; it's enriched my understanding and set me up with a solid foundation for future engineering design work. Thanks again for everything!

Mechanical Engineering

Thank you for the guidance you have given me and my team. The work we were doing for our research wasn't always so easy, and at times, we would feel stuck. Perhaps we found certain concepts confusing, or maybe we were struggling to identify what aspects we've overlooked in our endeavors. However, you would always give our team necessary advice that helped us set our direction. You didn't merely give us an answer to a question, but enabled us to find our own answers to them, and we have become better researchers because of this. Furthermore, you gave our team a push whenever it was needed, something that helped us take our work further than we envisioned. Just when we would think there is nothing else to add, you would point out another feature or area we could add to or improve upon, challenging us to go beyond our current point. Ultimately, these pushes helped us go as far as publication, an outcome our team was very pleased about considering we had never achieved such a feat before. Again, thank you for being a crucial part of my team's journey -- may we cross paths once again.

Computer Science

I am deeply grateful for your invaluable guidance, unwavering support, and the knowledge you've shared, which has been instrumental in shaping my growth. Your mentorship has inspired me to strive for excellence, and I will carry your lessons forward throughout my journey. Thank you for making such a meaningful difference in my life and career.

Energy Management



School of Architecture & Design

I just wanted to say thank you for such a great and memorable class. Your class was perfectly thought out, and you have the perfect balance just by never assigning us too much work but also giving us what we need in terms of information that we have to carry on in our architecture studies. The way you broke down structural concepts made them both clear and memorable, and it's clear that your goal was to create long-term knowledge rather than just short-term results. The best part was how patient you were and how kind you were all semester. You always had time for your students and did everything with genuine concern and respect. That made a big difference and created a genuinely positive learning environment. Thank you again for everything!

Architecture

Thank you for everything you've done for us this semester and for making it an incredible experience for me! Your encouragement and guidance, especially during moments when I felt stuck or unmotivated, made all the difference. You inspired me to push beyond my limits and discover strengths I didn't know I had. I know I'll carry your advice with me throughout my journey in architecture school and beyond. Professors like you remind us why the hard work in this field is worth it. Your understanding and supportive nature have made a lasting impact, and I deeply appreciate how much you care for your students' growth and success. I hope you continue inspiring future students as you've inspired me. Thank you for being such an incredible mentor!

Architecture

Thank you so much for really caring about what we learn and how much we learn in the class. I truly believe that you have been one of the best professors I've had!!

Architecture



Thank you, truly, for making studio feel meaningful again. Thank you for your calm wisdom, your honesty, and for reminding us what it means to care about architecture, and about each other. Thank you for believing in us, even when we weren't sure we believed in ourselves. And thank you, personally, for believing in me. That meant more than I can express. From the bottom of my heart, it's been an honor and a joy to have you as a professor. I've learned so much more than design under your guidance, and I've remembered why I chose this path in the first place. I really hope our paths cross again soon.

Architecture

Thank you for giving me a new understanding of how to handle the fine art of drawing. Without your lessons and teaching style, I may have never found any ability in physical media. I still have a long way to go but I think progress is possible now.

Digital Art & Design

We are grateful for making something so difficult to understand comprehensible, for showing what it means to be a professional with your meticulous and careful attitude, and for being so intelligent while remaining egoless and humble. Your valuable presence and perspectives have illuminated our path. Endless thanks for everything.

Digital Art & Design



School of Health Professions

I wanted to sincerely thank you for your exceptional teaching. Your clear explanations, structured approach, and willingness to engage with our questions made the subject both approachable and highly enriching. The concepts you covered were immensely helpful and have deepened my understanding significantly. I truly appreciate the effort and passion you brought to each lecture, which made a challenging course so much more manageable and enjoyable. Thank you once again for your guidance and support throughout the semester.

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

Thank you for being such an incredible teacher. Your passion, kindness, wittiness, and dedication made learning not only easier, but inspiring. You didn't just teach us - you encouraged us, which truly means the world. Thank you for the impact you have made!

Nursing

Thank you for taking the time to not only teach your students but also share stories and lessons that will help us grow as future OTs. Even when the semester got difficult, I always looked forward to Tuesday's lab. Your kindness and passion as a teacher truly made a difference this semester and last!

Occupational Therapy

Thank you for your guidance, support, and dedication throughout the course. Your passion for the PA profession and commitment to our success have truly made a lasting impact. I'm grateful for everything I've learned and inspired by your example as both an educator and clinician.

Physician Assistant Studies



Thank you for teaching our class pharmacology the past two semesters. Your knowledge about medications and passion for teaching resonates with our class. Having a pharmacist with clinical experience and enthusiasm for spreading their wisdom was so valuable. I am excited to apply what I learned and build on it, as a future Physician Assistant. Thanks for being an awesome professor.

- Physician Assistant Studies

Thanks so much for being an amazing and caring professor. You especially helped us gain so much knowledge in cardiology. You have such a passion for cardiology, and it really showed. You went above and beyond to make sure we understood the material and really learned. Thank you for always going above and beyond, like getting us munchkins on hard days or listening to our concerns. Thank you!

Physician Assistant Studies

Thank you for being you. You're like a wealth of knowledge, and I appreciate your support during this semester. I hope to work with you again in the future.

Nursing

Thank you for being such an incredible professor and for making Medical Informatics and Diagnostic Imaging a truly engaging and memorable course. To me, it initially felt like learning a completely new language, but your thoughtful lectures and well-structured curriculum made the experience not only manageable but genuinely enjoyable. I also want to express my appreciation for the community outreach and PEP credit opportunities you provided. Attending the Wilderness Workshop was especially fun and enriching. Your kindness and unwavering dedication to the field of medicine is truly inspiring. I hope to one day embody the same compassion and commitment in my own career. I will always carry your teachings with me and sincerely hope to take another one of your classes in the future! Thank you for everything!

Physician Assistant Studies



School of Management

Thank you for challenging me to push my limits. It was by no means an easy subject for me, however, the hurdles you set encouraged me to overcome them with determination. Although my grades may not fully reflect my efforts, the knowledge and insights I have gained in this class will undoubtedly be valuable in my future endeavours. I am deeply grateful for your guidance and support throughout this journey. You are truly an inspiring educator, and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from you. Thank you again for the beneficial class.

- LEAF

Thank you for teaching us how to apply finance concepts to the real world through the use of actual companies. From the very first class to the last, you guided us in understanding how to read and interpret financial statements to derive intrinsic stock values and even predict future performance for businesses. I truly enjoyed the presentations we worked on during the course, as they provided not only hands-on experience but also invaluable insights into financial analysis. Your lessons on risk assessment and forecasting the future value of companies were particularly impactful and have deepened my understanding of the field. Your practical approach to teaching has made this course both engaging and insightful, and I am truly grateful for the knowledge and skills I've gained.

LEAF

I started this program without prior knowledge in business and operations but today, I can confidently say that I have the necessary skills to be an excellent business and operations manager. Your dedication to ensure that I not only understood the material, but learn to apply it in real scenarios has been invaluable. Thank you so much for your patience and support in making me achieve this milestone.

- Marketing & Management



Thank you for being such an incredible teacher. Your engaging teaching style and thoughtfully designed in-class activities have made learning an absolute joy. Every lecture feels like a journey into understanding the subject deeply, and your creative approach ensures that we truly grasp even the most challenging topics. I especially appreciate how the group assignments you assign emphasize the importance of teamwork and expose us to real-world challenges. These experiences have not only enhanced my understanding of the material but also taught me the value of collaboration and problem-solving in professional settings. You have been, without a doubt, one of the best professors I have ever had. Your passion for teaching and commitment to your students' success inspire me to strive for excellence. Thank you for making such a meaningful impact on my academic journey.

Marketing & Management

Thank you for making the classroom so lively and engaging. Thank you for your smiles and laughter and dedication to your job. Thank you for showing appreciation and concern for everyone. And thanks for the cookies and candy. You were the highlight of the semester, and it was always a joy to be in your class. Keep on being amazing.

Quantitative & Analytics

I want to sincerely thank you for the way you taught our class, combining theory and practical application seamlessly within the same session. Your teaching style made every concept stick with me, and I often find myself applying what I learned in your class in real-world situations. The impact your course had on my understanding of the subject has truly shaped my career path, and I'm genuinely grateful for the clarity and confidence it gave me. Thank you for being such an effective and inspiring teacher!

Quantitative & Analytics

Thank you for making the classroom so lively and engaging. Thank you for your smiles and laughter and dedication to your job. Thank you for showing appreciation and concern for everyone. And thanks for the cookies and candy. You were the highlight of the semester, and it was always a joy to be in your class. Keep on being amazing.

Marketing & Management



College of Osteopathic Medicine

Thank you for being the wonderful professor you are! Despite our class having to be online this fall, you've made learning anatomy very engaging, insightful, and meaningful to master! I always appreciate the dedicated lecture times you gave every Monday, and they helped me especially conceptualize the spatial and clinical implications of major arteries, veins, nerves, bones, and organ sites! You also gave us the opportunity to apply what we've learned in our clinical cases every week and it was one of the most exciting aspects of the course! Having to be clinical investigators as aspiring physicians, you've made class a perfect blend of theoretical and practical knowledge! Thank you for a great class this fall semester and I look forward to learning anatomy in greater depth next year!!

- Basic Sciences- Anatomy

Thank you so much for the incredible help, time, and dedication you've given to your students. Your commitment to teaching and the thoughtful way you guide us has a lasting impact — not just on our education, but on the kind of clinicians we will become. Your support and passion for medicine have been truly inspiring, and I'm grateful for everything you've done to help us grow, learn, and prepare for the future.

- Clinical Sciences- Clinical Specialties

Thank you so much for letting me shadow you—it was truly a meaningful experience. I really admired how calm, caring, and knowledgeable you were with every patient, no matter how busy things got. You made patients feel at ease, and I learned so much just by watching how you listened and explained things. I was also really appreciative of how welcoming you were to me as a student, always taking the time to teach and share insights. I picked up some valuable lessons that I hope to carry with me as I grow in the art of medicine. I'm really grateful for your example and for the time you gave me and look forward to next time!

Clinical Sciences-Clinical Specialties



Learning

Despite our class being mostly online, thank you for always providing very engaging and insightful lectures each week! Beyond lecture material, you always share a meaningful, positive outlook on medical education that centers around learners' well-being and holistic achievements for clinical competency! Having to hear about your experiences in academia and research has provided me with valuable insights into just how complex and challenging it can be when it comes to optimizing medical education. A meaningful point that I take away from your class is that measuring competency is not a "one-size-fits-all" paradigm! Hoping to be a professor in the near future, I am eager to confront these potential challenges with the effort to share the valuable insights about education that you've provided. Thank you again for always providing wonderful lectures every week and I look forward to attending your class next Spring!

Clinical Sciences- Family Medicine

Thank you for being an amazing professor over the last 2 years. You have put so much time, effort, and heart into the OMM department and it shows. We as students have noticed you step up time and time again as you give your all to us and our future. We appreciate you and remember you as we take our OMM skills into clinicals and beyond.

- Clinical Sciences-Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Thank you for the wonderful class this semester! Despite our class being remote and asynchronous, I appreciated the level of engagement and time you've spent in making this class meaningful and memorable! Having to return to school after two gap years, your course helped rekindle my passion for learning and staying in academia, especially medicine! To my surprise, I was in awe to learn about the vast practical resources used for medical education, specifically simulation tools! This has certainly made me look forward to starting my medical journey at NYITCOM! Thank you again for a great semester and class and I look forward to attending more of your courses in the future!

Clinical Sciences- Family Medicine