

FACULTY RESEARCH AWARDS

The Faculty Research Awards are presented to professors who have fostered and developed undergraduate research at their academic institutions.

Susan M. Fischer, Ph.D, DePaul University

Dr. Susan M. Fischer received her B.S at University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (1986), and received her M.S. from Colorado State University (1988) in Physics. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame in Nuclear physics (1994) and eventually came to DePaul University in 1998 where she holds currently holds an Associate Professor position in the Department of Physics. In addition to her professorial position at DePaul, she also holds the position of Assistant Scientist in the Physics Division at Argonne National Laboratory. Her research interest covers a large variety of issues in the area of experimental nuclear physics. Her primary research interests lies in the study of atomic nuclei and its possible structures after undergoing nuclear collisions using gamma particles. Dr. Fischer teaches several courses a year which are available to both undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Fischer's lectures are charismatic and rich with knowledge, and her labs are interactive and enlightening. She is not only a phenomenal teacher in the classroom, but she also an excellent advisor in the laboratory. Having joint positions at Argonne and DePaul has allowed Dr. Fischer to give many undergraduate students a unique opportunity to do research at a national lab. She has always been willing to take on new students and encourages these young researchers to push their limits of patients and analytical skills when dealing with data, results, and even to life in general. When she is not collecting data from germanium detectors, or teaching, she and her husband have their recently born baby boy, Aaron, to keep them busy (December 29, 2006).



Jeffrey L. Doering, Ph.D, Loyola University

Dr. Jeffrey Doering is the Chairman for the Biology Department at Loyola University, the Biology Student Advisory Council chairperson, and a professor of molecular genetics. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1975. His current research focuses on constructing a detailed physical map of the centromere and identifying DNA sequences critical for human centromere function. He is also working on characterizing the molecular nature of deletions in collagen gene loci responsible for osteogenesis imperfecta (OI). Dr. Doering is an accomplished professor and scientist with many years of research and publications under his belt. He is an extremely fervent support of undergraduate research and has advised countless numbers of undergraduate and graduate students on independent research projects. He continually encourages students



to explore new pathways and always serves as a kind, guiding voice of wisdom. Moreover, he has an excellent sense of humor and a caring personality. As one student in his lab remarked, "he truly exemplifies Loyola's motto of 'preparing people to lead extraordinary lives!'"

Richard B. Silverman, Ph.D, Northwestern University

Richard B. Silverman is the John Evans Professor of Chemistry in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. After receiving his Ph.D. at Harvard University, Professor Silverman joined the Northwestern faculty in 1976. His research has been predominantly in the area of epilepsy, cancer, and neurodegenerative diseases with a special interest in the mechanisms of drug actions and the design of medicinal agents. He has received numerous awards for his research and teaching, including a Sloan Research Fellowship, a National Institutes of Health Career Development Award, the Northwestern University Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award and the E. LeRoy Hall Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2005, many people at Northwestern associated Professor Silverman's name with Lyrica, a drug he had developed to treat nerve pain associated with diabetes and shingles and for epileptic seizures. For the latter half of this school year, he is known as the chemistry professor who made a significant gift to help fund Northwestern's newest research facility: Richard and Barbara Silverman Hall for Molecular Therapeutics & Diagnostics. But more importantly, many students at Northwestern know him as the professor who made it "worth getting up at 8 a.m." for organic chemistry. Silverman also teaches medicinal chemistry and enzyme chemistry to undergraduate and graduate students. Even with his busy schedule, he never fails to take the time to make sure that his students understand the material and continues to encourage young aspiring undergrads to try research and perhaps discover their talents in the sciences.



Philippe Cluzel, Ph.D, University of Chicago

Philippe Cluzel is a Professor of Physics at University of Chicago whose research is focused on experimental biological physics, non-equilibrium systems, and biopolymers. He also is seeking to understand signaling at the scale of individual cells. He runs an active lab affiliated with the Chicago Materials Research Center, Institute for Biophysical Dynamics, and the James Franck Institute. Recently, collaborating with Argonne National Laboratory, Dr. Cluzel introduced a computer simulation called AgentCell that allows researchers to study the relationship between biochemical fluctuations within a single cell and the cell's behavior as it interacts with other cells and its environment. His lab is an engaging and friendly environment, offering interdisciplinary training opportunities for individuals with either a biological or physical sciences background. Dr. Cluzel's knowledge of the field, patience, and understanding continually motivates his undergraduates to stretch themselves and reap the intellectual rewards.

