For more than 140 years, the University’s faculty have been the architects of the Nevada experience. They are not only engaged and accomplished educators, they are mentors who inspire and lead our students as they turn their dreams into reality. To honor and acknowledge Nevada’s top faculty, the Board of Regents for the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University and local, national and international organizations present prestigious honors each year. This year’s slate of award winners shares a commitment to the academic excellence that is the hallmark of a University of Nevada, Reno education.

Regents’ Academic Advisor Award, Undergraduate; Undergraduate Advising Award
Erin Stiles
Erin Stiles joined the Department of Anthropology in 2008. She has served as the primary academic advisor for undergraduate majors in anthropology for several years and has chaired many undergraduate honors theses. Stiles’ research and teaching interests are in the anthropology of religion and law, and she conducts fieldwork in Zanzibar, Tanzania and Utah. Most of her published work focuses on marital disputes in Islamic family courts in rural Zanzibar, including An Islamic Court in Context: An Ethnographic Study of Judicial Reasoning. She currently chairs the minor program in religious studies at the University, and chairs the executive board of the Southwestern Anthropological Association.

Regents’ Creative Activities Award
Emma Sepúlveda Pulvirenti
Foundation Professor Emma Sepúlveda Pulvirenti ’76 (Spanish), ’78 M.A. (Spanish) serves as founding director of the Latino Research Center and is the author and co-author of 28 books and scores of articles and newspaper columns. She has been invited to give lectures and to read her work in Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Sepúlveda Pulvirenti is the recipient of many awards, including the Latino Book Award for her last two books, Seventy Days of Night/Setenta días de noche and Gringosincrasias. She has also received the Latina Women of the Year in Literature Award from GEMS television network and the Nevada Governor’s Excellence in the Arts Award. In 2014, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the 12-member Fulbright International Scholarship Commission.

Regents’ Rising Researcher Award
Eelke Folmer
Eelke Folmer is an associate professor in computer science and engineering, where he leads the Human+ lab, which specializes in human-computer interaction research. His research focuses on designing, building and evaluating technology to address high-impact social problems pertaining to assistive technology, accessibility, health and well-being. His research has explored the use of exercise games to create new exercise opportunities for blind children; using Google Glass to develop a low-cost indoor navigation system for blind users; and most recently the use of aerial robots to guide blind athletes. His research is funded by the National Science Foundation, Google and Microsoft. His research projects have been featured in New Scientist magazine and the MIT Technology Review.

Outstanding Researcher of the Year
Andrei Derevianko
Andrei Derevianko, professor of physics, has published in theoretical physics since arriving at Nevada in 2001. He has contributed to the development of modern timekeeping with atomic clocks and to precision tests of fundamental laws of nature. He has published more than 100 refereed papers. Derevianko was the winner of the Mousel-Feltner Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity in the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science in 2006.
Patrick Arnott

Arnott was at the Desert Research Institute and Palo Alto Research Center. From 1992-2005, during a summer internship at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, he worked on theory of phased array laser diodes in theoretical physics. In 1996, his research focuses on the social, fiscal and economic impacts associated with the spread of casino gambling over the last 25 years. His research is nationally and internationally recognized and has appeared in more than 30 peer-reviewed publications, including Oxford University’s Handbook of Gambling Economics. He served as department chair and is currently the director of graduate programs. His recent teaching awards include Senior Scholar Mentor in 2013 and Graduate Faculty Excellence in Teaching at The College of Business in 2012. He is also an avid cyclist.

Distinguished Faculty

Phillip Boardman

Boardman, professor in Department of English, is a specialist in medieval literature and the Bible. In his 41 years at the University, he has won University, state and national teaching awards. He has led numerous travel courses to Europe and taught in university programs in London and Lüneburg, Germany. On campus, Boardman has chaired the Department of English, the Graduate Council, the Faculty Senate and the Core Humanities program. He is co-author of The Arthurian Annals: The Tradition in English from 1250 to 2000. Formerly chair of the Nevada Humanities Council, he has also sung in 81 productions with the Nevada Opera Chorus.

Established Innovator Award

Mark Nichols

Nichols, professor in the Department of Economics, joined the University in 1996. His research focuses on the social, fiscal and economic impacts associated with the spread of casino gambling over the last 25 years. His research is nationally and internationally recognized and has appeared in more than 30 peer-reviewed publications, including Oxford University’s Handbook of Gambling Economics. He served as department chair and is currently the director of graduate programs. His recent teaching awards include Senior Scholar Mentor in 2013 and Graduate Faculty Excellence in Teaching at The College of Business in 2012. He is also an avid cyclist.

Foundation Professor

James Kenyon

Kenyon joined the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology in 1987. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association focusing on the cellular mechanisms that underlie the electrical activity of cardiac muscle, smooth muscle and sensory neurons. In 2007, he became the principal investigator and director of the NIH-funded NV INBRE project that is developing biomedical research at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNLV, and Nevada’s colleges. In 2012, he led the development of the proposal that was funded as one of five national IDeA-CTR projects. He serves as the project coordinator of the resulting Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research Infrastructure Network.

Ph.D. in mathematics with a specialty in computing and algorithms from the University of Wyoming. He has worked as a consultant for Systems Development Corporation, Israeli Aircraft Industries and the World Bank. Varol is currently a program evaluator for ABET, an accreditation organization for college and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology at the associate, bachelor and master degree levels. He began his teaching career outside the United States as a faculty member at universities in Israel and South Africa, and was a visiting professor in China and Russia. Within the country, he has taught courses at Southern Illinois University, as well as the University of Nevada, Reno.

Distinguished Faculty

Indira Chatterjee

Chatterjee, associate dean of engineering and professor of electrical and biomedical engineering, joined the University in 1988. Her research is in the effects of electromagnetic fields on biological systems. She has been selected by her students as a College of Engineering Senior Scholar mentor three times. She has won the F. Donald Tibbits Distinguished Teacher Award, the Ralph E. and Rose A. Hoepner Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising, the Society of Women Engineers Region A Service Award, the Nevada Women’s Fund “Women of Achievement” honor and the Silver Compass Award for extraordinary commitment to students. She has been principal/co-principal investigator on more than $5 million in research funding.

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University’s Global Engagement Award

Yvonne Stedham

Yvonne Stedham is a professor of management and a 2010 University Foundation Professor in the College of Business. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in international management and management, including a course on mindful leadership, at the University of Nevada and the School of Management in Ingolstadt, Germany. Stedham is also a faculty member of the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in social psychology at the University. She served on the State Council for the Society for Human Resource Management and is the past president of the Nevada World Trade Council. She has provided management training locally and nationally for state agencies, the Reno Police Department, REMSA and other organizations.

Graduate Academic Advisor Award

Jane Detweiler

Jane Detweiler was appointed associate dean for the College of Liberal Arts at the University in 2013. She also is an associate professor of English, with a specialization in rhetoric and composition, and has in the past served as the director of the Core Writing Program. Detweiler has pursued a variety of inquiries into writing in academic, professional and public fora, with special emphasis on narrative as a mode of understanding the world and a means of inventing, composing and delivering arguments. She has published in the rhetoric of health care disciplines, composition pedagogy, writing program assessment and environmental discourse studies. More recently, her work has centered on public moral argumentation and political deliberation. She has taught courses in first-year composition, technical communication, professional writing, argu-
ment, composition pedagogy, gender and sexual identity studies, rhetorical theories and criticism, environmental discourse, narrative theories and genres, and research methodologies in composition studies.

Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award
Marjorie Matocq

Wildlife Geneticist and Associate Professor Marjorie Matocq has focused her research on a number of ecological and evolutionary questions at the interface of intra- and interspecific processes. Her research program is heavily collections-based and integrates traditional field and morphological data with molecular and genomic methods to elucidate pattern and process at several spatial and temporal scales. Projects in Matocq’s lab focus on studying patterns of geographic population genetic structure and the processes underlying such patterns. She was honored with the American Society of Mammalogist Award in 2001, the Joseph Mailliard Fellowship in 2000 and the Robert I. Larus the G.K. Lindsay Award for Excellence in the Natural Science Foundation and the state EPSCoR office.

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award
Vaidyanathan Subramanian

Ravi Subramanian is an associate professor in chemical and materials engineering. He is a well-recognized undergraduate mentor and an internationally acclaimed researcher with a consistent commitment to undergraduate mentoring, especially of minorities, including Hispanic students and women. Internationally, he has been recognized as Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellow. Subramanian's research area is primarily in novel materials for solar energy conversion, fuel cells, energy storage technologies and environmental remediation and is currently funded by the National Science Foundation and the state EPSCoR office.

Faculty Senate Award for Outstanding Service
Patricia Ellison

Originally from England, Patricia Ellison, associate professor with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, completed her graduate and post-graduate work at the University of Sheffield, followed by post-doctoral research at the Max-Planck Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg, Germany and at Washington State University. She came to the University in 2000 as part of Professor Christine Cremo’s smooth muscle research group. Since 2005, Ellison has been director of the undergraduate program in biochemistry and molecular biology and teaches undergraduate laboratory classes and a graduate course in enzymology. Ellison served two years on the Faculty Senate Executive Board, and is currently chair of the Academic Standards Committee.

Distinguished Classified Employee Award
Michael Maskaly

Michael Maskaly ‘80 (electrical engineering), development technician IV, is well known for his skills keeping the University of Nevada School of Medicine Research and Clinical Departments’ equipment in working order. He is available to all departments of the School of Medicine to do repairs, mechanical designs and machining, fabrication of intricate instruments and more. Because of his initiative to think outside the box, many of the offices have been furnished and equipment obtained from material found at surplus, saving the departments significant money.