

Winners of fall 2016 WSU First-Year Seminar Awards

The First-Year Seminar Awards on March 21, 2017, recognized eight special award recipients honored for their work in fall 2016 First-Year Seminars (FYS) at Wright State University. Photos of “Fysie” recipients can be viewed on wrightstate.smugmug.com. Peer mentors Jessica Baker and Sarah Owens were unable to attend the ceremonies due to classes. As shown below, First-Year Seminar Award recipients are:



Standing:

- **Rachel Slater, Peer Mentor**, Holly Jackson Award for Outstanding Innovation in Co-Curricular Activities with Amanda Herbe
- **Dr. Nicole Carter, Faculty**, Outstanding Collaboration Award with Taylor Watkins
- **Taylor Watkins, Peer Mentor**, Outstanding Collaboration Award with Dr. Nicole Carter

Seated:

- **Amanda Herbe, Faculty**, Holly Jackson Award for Outstanding Innovation in Co-Curricular Activities with Rachel Slater
- **Dr. Korrin Ziswiler, Faculty**, Doug Saul Award for Excellence with Sarah Owens, and Outstanding Faculty Commitment
- **Gina Oswald, Faculty**, Outstanding Collaboration Award with Jessica Baker

Inset:

- **Sarah Owens, Peer Mentor**, Outstanding Classroom Innovation with Amanda Spencer
- **Jessica Baker, Peer Mentor**, Outstanding Collaboration Award with Gina Oswald

About recipients and award categories:

Doug Saul Award for Excellence

A faculty / peer mentor team were the 2016 recipients of the Doug Saul Award for Excellence. **Dr. Korrin Ziswiler** taught an *Education and Human Services focused* section, with assistance from peer mentor **Sarah Owens**. This instructional

team's extensive efforts designing intentional assignments and engaging students purposefully resulted in the very highest student evaluation results.

- This category recognizes first-year seminar instructors who excel in several areas and who serve as models of very effective instruction. Very effective FYS instruction includes:
 - Strong integration of FYS goals into the class,
 - Noteworthy service to FYS students,
 - Strong academic focus, content, and challenge,
 - Strong ratings on student evaluations,
 - Achievements of note in other categories, such as innovation in teaching, co-curricular activities, and collaboration
 - Strong connections between the seminar and a linked core course, when linked
 - Fostering a strong sense of community among FYS students

The awards were presented to Dr. Ziswiler and Owens by College of Education and Human Services Dean Joseph Keferl.

Holly Jackson Award for Outstanding Innovation in Co-Curricular Activities

Amanda Herbe and peer mentor **Rachel Slater** were the winner of this year's Holly Jackson Award for Outstanding Innovation in Co-Curricular Activities. By involving a first-year seminar *for pre-health students* in a tour of an anatomy lab led by the professor of the anatomy class the students will be taking in a year or two, Amanda and Rachel fully immersed new students in a key course of their intended majors. This opportunity also allowed the student to connect with their future anatomy professor. Dr. Douglas W. Leaman, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, presented the award.

- The Holly Jackson Award category includes field trips, class projects that complement linked core courses, service learning, and similar activities. The category focuses mainly on out-of-class activities and experiences.

Outstanding Collaboration award

Faculty instructor **Dr. Nicole Carter** and peer mentor **Taylor Watkins** created a charismatic instructional team to provide guidance to *Black Women in Leadership* first-year students. They collaborated with 19 departments to organize panels, interactive presentations and activities, and connected students to key individuals in both Student and Academic Affairs. Some highlights of the class include a Professional Women on Self-care panel, Identity center and academic success selfie hunt, and a presentation on getting involved on campus. Director of LGBTQA Affairs Petey Peterson presented this award.

When exceptionally strong nominations demand it, multiple awards in a single category are given. **Gina Oswald** and peer mentor **Jessica Baker** are one such exceptionally strong team. Through collaborating with guest speakers and partnering with the Career Center, University Writing Center, and Raider Connect, this instructional team helped students in the *Undecided considering College of Education and Human Services* course explore careers and build resumes. These tools allow the students to pursue their interests in relation to future careers. Dr. Mary Huber presented this award.

- This category includes collaboration between different colleges, between Academic and Student Affairs, between the FYS instructor and linked core faculty, between instructors of different sections, and between the FYS instructor and various organizations, both on and off campus. The collaboration may involve development or revision of a learning community and /or planning FYS events or projects.

Outstanding Faculty Commitment to First-Year Seminars

Dr. Korrin Ziswiler provides guidance to peers as well as students. Through building a learning community among all College of Education and Human Services instructors and peer mentors, Dr. Ziswiler led the group to promote ideas and initiatives meeting the specific needs of their students. By convening summer planning meetings, providing support to colleagues through fall, and reviewing student feedback to guide future improvements, Korrin Ziswiler showed outstanding commitment to first-year seminars. This award was presented to Dr. Ziswiler by Dr. Travis Doom representing Faculty Senate.

- This award recognizes faculty teaching a first-year seminar or enhancing first-year seminars in other significant ways. Their significant/active role in the FYS experiences exemplifies a commitment to first-year students and FYS goals. Examples include class visits, joint field trips, and collaborations & consultations regarding course materials or activities.

Please join us in congratulating these dedicated First-Year Seminar instructors and peer mentors!

Catherine Queener and Kim Stephens

First -Year Programs, University College



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