The Academic Awards Committee had the pleasant task of reviewing nominations for university-wide undergraduate academic awards, as well as for several departmental and interdepartmental prizes. Award nominations – solicited from faculty and staff members, department chairs, and program directors in early January – were due in mid-February. Award nomination packets were compiled by the Division of Undergraduate Education for review by the committee. Assessment of candidates and selection of award recipients took place in late February and early March.

This year’s committee consisted of ten faculty members appointed from a broad spectrum of departments in the School of Arts and Sciences, and two faculty members from the School of Engineering. There also were three voting ex officio members: the dean of academic advising and undergraduate studies, the dean of student affairs, and the director of financial aid.

Special thanks to Joanne Ferguson (Undergraduate Education) and Joan Puglia (Administrative Services) whose meticulous attention to detail ensured that the entire awards process and the April 17 ceremony ran flawlessly.

Important dates for the year were:

- **January 5, 2015**: First electronic mailing to faculty, chairs and program directors about academic award nominations. Department chairs and assistants also received a hard copy of this information.

- **January 26, 2015**: Second electronic reminder to department chairs and assistants about academic award nominations.

- **February 13, 2014**: Award nominations due by 5:00pm.

- **February 25, 2015**: Trunk invitation to committee members to access the 2015 general award nominations and other information. Because of the large number of nominations and the short time that committee members had to read them, the committee was divided into two groups with each group reading and ranking half the award nominations. As always committee members had the option to read all of them, which several people did. Members were asked to rank their top three candidates for each award.
• March 11, 2015, 4:00-8:00pm: Dinner meeting in Dowling Hall during which committee members conferred and selected winners for all general prizes and scholarships. Departmental prizes and scholarships were determined by the respective departments. Winners of competitive prizes and scholarships such as the Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize and the Marshall Hochhauser Prize were chosen by their respective committees.

• April 17, 2014: The 115th Honors Convocation took place in Cohen Auditorium at 7:30pm, following a performance by sQ! As Committee Chair, I served as emcee once again. We were delighted to have a platform party consisting of the following people: Anthony Monaco, 13th President of Tufts University; Vice Provost Kevin Dunn; Carmen Lowe, Dean of Academic Advising and Undergraduate Studies; Mary Pat McMahon, Dean of Student Affairs; Kim Ruane, Professor, Department of Mathematics, winner of the 2014 Leibner Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising, and the evening’s keynote speaker. Thanks to judicious script editing by Carmen Lowe, Joie Cummings, and me, we were able to cut one hour off the ceremony, finishing at 9:30pm! That left more time for people to enjoy a dessert reception in Alumnae Lounge at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

• It is always inspiring to celebrate our students’ stellar achievements in so many areas, as well as their impressive commitment to active citizenship.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wallace Grossman, Professor, Drama and Dance; Chair, Academic Awards Committee

On behalf of committee members:
Shuchin Aeron, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Timothy Atherton, Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy  
Ikumi Kaminishi, Associate Professor, Art & Art History  
Sergiy Kryatov, Senior Lecturer, Chemistry  
Carmen Lowe, Dean of Academic Advising and Undergraduate Studies, ex officio, voting  
George Norman, Professor, Economics  
Vincent Pollina, Associate Professor, Romance Languages  
Dennis Rasmussen, Assistant Professor, Political Science  
Kamran Rastegar, Associate Professor, German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures  
Patricia Reilly, Financial Aid Director, ex officio, voting  
Anil Saigal, Professor, Mechanical Engineering  
Loring Tu, Professor, Mathematics  
Eric Tytell, Assistant Professor, Biology
Support Staff:
Joanne Ferguson, Undergraduate Education
Yvelle Chery, Administrative Support
Joan Puglia, Administrative Services