

Grant Receives Jefferson Scholars Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching

April 25, 2019

◆ accolades, education, school of medicine



Patrick Grant, PhD

Congratulations to **Patrick Grant, PhD**, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, on receiving the Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Jefferson Scholars Foundation. According to [its website](#), "This award honors those teachers in our community who have gone the extra mile in fulfilling their vocation without regard for their own advancement." Grant and two other UVA faculty members were recognized with this award during a ceremony on April 11, while two additional faculty received the Hartfield Excellence in Teaching Award in Engineering and Applied Science.

The mission of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation is "to serve the University of Virginia by identifying, attracting, and nurturing individuals of extraordinary intellectual range and depth who possess the highest concomitant qualities of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship."

This recognition is well-deserved, as evidenced by excerpts from Grant's colleagues and students who wrote these words for his nomination packet:

- "He is one of the few teachers that students have applauded spontaneously at the end of his lecture series"
- "I have worked with over 200 faculty over the last 30 years and Patrick Grant is the only faculty member whom I know to have received a unanimous and unequivocally perfect review score from a large class of medical students."
- "I appreciate having such a generous colleague, who with a moment's notice can lecture to a room of 50 undergrads with clarity and affability that comes with true excellence in teaching ability."
- "Dr. Grant's ability to impart his natural curiosity for research and wealth of knowledge in his field is a great gift to not only us, but to all those he mentors in the lab. The atmosphere he creates in the lab always encourages further scientific inquiry and never lets us get discouraged when we hit difficulties in our projects."
- "Along with being invested in our individual development and developing our wet labs skills, Dr. Grant has also greatly improved our communication and writing skills by supporting our endeavors to apply for research awards/scholarships, conferences and giving me the opportunity to draft a literature review...."

When asked what this award means, Grant said, "I am truly honored to be recognized by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation and equally to have been nominated by my fellow colleagues, mentees, and students for this award. On a personal level, of the various achievements over my career, this one award stands out as perhaps the most significant. I am proud to be acknowledged in this way for the part I play in the mission of the University in higher learning".

Grant's favorite part of teaching is in feeling the sense of accomplishment. He also enjoys "seeing students grow in knowledge or come to terms with hard concepts, whether it be in the classroom or the lab. I enjoy trying to interject humor into my teaching if possible. It might not always work, but it can be an effective way to engage students and bring enthusiasm to the classroom."

Other awardees include **John Miller** (Classics, College of Arts & Sciences), **Mohammed Sawaie** (Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures, College of Arts & Sciences), **Nada Basit**, (Computer Science, School of Engineering & Applied Science), and **Geoff Geise** (Chemical Engineering, School of Engineering & Applied Science). To read about them, [check out the story](#) on UVA Today.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Grant on this outstanding achievement!