

Nancy J. Walsh Irish Clover Award Submissions

Nominees:

Huaizhi Chen

Anna Kenny

Huaizhi Chen

Assistant Professor of Finance, Mendoza

*I would like to nominate Professor Huaizhi Chen, professor of Finance, for his exemplary service and outstanding impact on undergraduate education. On syllabus day for his Finance class, his invitation to “challenge him in chess” during his office hours gave me a reason to attend office hours without feeling an unreasonable sense of anxiety because I knew nothing about finance. After a few chess challenges, I was imbued with his knowledge and expertise in finance and economics. He even went the extra mile to discuss articles from *The WSJ* and *Bloomberg* that he thought would be a good learning opportunity for me. Over the semester, Professor Chen sent 38 emails with articles related to finance, business professionalism, and career success, demonstrating his commitment to all his students' academic success and financial skills mastery.*

I thoroughly enjoyed Professor Chen's lectures and content delivery strategy. In addition to lectures, his printed notes included blanks for all his students to participate actively. He would allow short breaks for students to try problems independently, allowing them to apply what they learned. Due to his interactive lecture style with time for problem-solving, I could retain significantly more information than in any other class I took at Notre Dame.

Professor Chen's lecture delivery style had a unique twist. Occasionally, he would offer small prizes for individuals brave enough to tackle a question independently. Professor Chen managed to get even the quietest students sitting in the back of the lecture room to participate.

Professor Chen also became my mentor. With everything I learned in his class and during office hours, he gave me significant mentorship. When I was applying to Goldman Sachs, I emailed him about the interview over the winter break, inquiring about help. Not even five minutes later, Professor Chen offered to zoom with me, and we ended up zooming for over an hour to give me interview prep, including many questions and feedback. Even after he helped me secure my internship, he checked in

with me during the summer to ask how the internship was going. Thanks to Professor Chen, I could use my knowledge and skills to calculate risk and reward, betas, and portfolio variance for my deal projects. I developed the habit of thinking like a financial analyst and feeling prepared to handle complex tasks during my internship. I am just one of many students Professor Chen has positively influenced and mentored.

Additionally, Professor Chen agreed to write letters of recommendation for me as I apply to competitive graduate programs. Professor Chen quickly became the most influential professor I have ever had at Notre Dame. Not only is he someone I highly respect and regard, but he is also a mentor and a friend. To invest the amount of time and effort he did towards my success is nothing short of amazing. I have never had a professor care so much about my learning quality and success.

Anna Kenny

Rector, Howard Hall

Anna is an outstanding Rector and leader of faith, service, and community in Howard Hall. Getting to work with her closely last semester was the highlight of my time serving the Howard community. She expertly handles problems that arise with grace and poise. She makes herself a resource to all students, not just those in Howard. She lights up the community with her generosity, kindness, and baking! (Which she always makes sure to cater to dietary restrictions as well) She is a very impressive person who has grown so much over the time I've been part of the Howard community.