

Nancy J. Walsh Irish Clover Award Submissions

Nominees:

Patrick Clauss
Rev. Peter McCormick
Nancy Michael
Nhat Nguyen
Brian O'Conchubhair
Rebecca Surman

Patrick Clauss

Francis O'Malley Director and Professor of the Practice, University Writing Program

Professor Clauss has provided a healthy and fun learning environment that fosters educational growth for the entire class.

Rev. Peter McCormick

Director of Campus Ministry

Two words: Fr. Pete.

Nancy Michael

Associate Teaching Professor, Neuroscience and Behavior

I came to Notre Dame as a freshman neuroscience major this fall. I had 0 neuroscience knowledge, but applied to be an illustrator of a neuroscience children's book written by alum that she was editing. I was selected for the role despite my expertise. This book is actually being released today, and I could not be prouder of who Dr Michael is as a person or her utter commitment to helping teach the COMMUNITY neuroscience. I would like to expand upon that in pointing out that the relevance of textbook STEM classes is very difficult to teach. However, Dr Michael has shown to me first hand while working alongside her the RELEVANCE of neuroscience. I have learned all about resilience, day to day applications of what's happening in my brain, and how to impact my community alongside her. I am truly grateful for her service, and believe that she deserves the Irish Clover Award.

Nhat Nguyen

Rector, Duncan Hall

The rector position is defined by its commitment to the student body, living with and accompanying undergraduate students through the highest of highs and lowest of lows. In addition, the rector (a) facilitates programming that is at the cornerstone of undergraduate life at Notre Dame by making the residence halls more than just a place to sleep at night, but a community to come back to each day, all while (b) mentoring undergraduate and graduate students who serve as resident assistants (RAs) and assistant rectors (ARs). Nhat Nguyen has beyond surpassed the expectations of the rector position: he is known widely around campus and knows the names of all the friends, girlfriends, and boyfriends that come to visit the residents of Duncan Hall. He is innovative, thinking outside the box, especially when COVID-19 prevention guidelines require us to think about how to execute community building events and entertainment in accordance with best practices and disease mitigation strategies. When a resident approaches him with an idea, he not only supports it wholeheartedly but helps to whatever extent he can. He facilitated a campus-wide bone marrow swab drive in honor of Kary Duncan, constantly serves as beloved DJ DuLac across campus, brings new traditions (e.g., SYR Yoga), and makes the most of the day-to-day, making Notre Dame a home to all its students.

Brian O'Conchubhair

Associate Professor, Irish Language and Literature

He has been an amazing mentor to a lot of students. He assists students with research ideas and plans for academic activities. Additionally, he has a good sense of humor and becomes friends with everyone.

Rebecca Surman

Professor, Physics

Dr. Surman will provide many opportunities for us to understand physics better. She is willing to meet with students and provide extra services that are not required to help us fully understand content. She gave us amazing advice to help us with testing anxiety, and emphasized our mental health as well. She is an amazing teacher. She goes above and beyond to teach students, and I appreciate all she does.