

2019 Faculty Excellence Award Dr. Daniel Fologea, Department of Physics

College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Leslie Durham recognized four deserving faculty members during the spring college meeting as winners of the 2018-19 faculty honors and awards.

The college honors and awards committee, comprised of 16 members from 16 COAS departments, reviewed multiple entries and selected the following four faculty members. Daniel Fologea excels in all three areas of teaching, research, and service, but what stands out about him is the way he creates an inspired whole that is greater than the sum of the parts. His classes are dynamic and highly interactive. He was the first faculty member to incorporate service learning into his research courses, so that his students learn not only how to carry out research, but also how to share it with the public. He created new courses to boost the mathematics literacy and success rates of graduate students lacking strong calculus backgrounds.



Dr. Fologea has always actively recruited and mentored students of diverse background in terms of majors (physics, chemistry, biology, anthropology, health sciences, engineering) and background (Native American, Hispanic, female). He makes it his job to ensure that *all* students learn and succeed, not just those with high entrance scores. His students speak of him glowingly, and often with adulation, as a role model, mentor, and caring human being. He has actively mentored 7 biomolecular sciences graduate students, more than 75 undergraduates, and 18 high-school students.

Dr. Fologea is an internationally known researcher in the field of membrane biophysics, whose research articles have been cited more than 1,300 times. In 2016, Dr. Fologea was awarded a highly prestigious single-investigator NSF CAREER grant for his research on ion channels. He has also received grant funding as PI from NASA, and from the State Board of Education to support his collaboration with local biomedical industry. Dr. Fologea holds two U.S. patents for inventions based on his research related to controlled drug release.

Dr. Fologea excels as a highly ranked teacher and devoted mentor, as a highly cited international researcher, and as a generous contributor to the functioning of the university and the success of its students.