FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
SLOAN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
2009 WINNERS

HOMER PANTELOGLOU —

Honors Living Environment, Marine Biology, AP Biology, Introduction to Business
High School of Economics and Finance

Despite being told that he couldn't be an educator because he was legally blind, "Mr. P." has been successfully teaching for the last 10 years. Known for creating a safe space where students can ask questions, he also excels at addressing obstacles that prevent learning. Students comment on his creativity in reaching every student, while colleagues note his popular "Bagels and Biology" tutoring program, "Out of 13 years of school, no teacher has done so much for me. I never thought an adult could care so much, and I wanted to perform well because of him," commented a former student.

MICHAEL HOLMES —

Honors Chemistry, Honors Biology, Film
High School of American Studies at Lehman

After graduating from North Carolina Central University, Mr. Holmes worked as a researcher before turning his attention — and making significant contributions — to teaching. Using innovative techniques, he empowers students to discover concepts on their own, and creates a sense of intrigue in the classroom that appeals to different learning styles. Students comment that Michael keeps after them "until they get it," and that he loves to illustrate how scientific thinking can be translated to other disciplines. Not surprisingly, one student who said she didn't like chemistry when she entered Mr. Holmes's class is now planning to be a pre-med major.

KATHERINE COOPER —

Biology, Science Research, Biomedical Ethics, Anatomy-Physiology, Advanced Topics
Townsend Harris High School

Mrs. Cooper began teaching at Townsend Harris after graduating with degrees from both Fordham and NYU, and over the last six years has made important contributions to the school. She has designed Biomedical Ethics and Anatomy-Physiology courses, mentored students who've won Intel Science Awards and established the Townsend Harris Science Olympiad Club, which has won numerous championships. Employing an approach that allows students to conduct their own research and draw their own conclusions, Mrs. Cooper excels at guiding and engaging. "She's not just a teacher or even a mentor — she deals with us as adolescents and burgeoning scholars," said one student.

RICHARD LEE —

Biology, AP Biology, Research
Bronx High School of Science

A teacher at Bronx Science for 20 years, Mr. Lee has helped 70 semifinalists, seven finalists, and two Top 10 winners compete at the Intel Science Talent Search competition. Students and colleagues say his core strengths include sympathy for struggling students, individual attention, total engagement and inductive teaching. They also acknowledge his success in adjusting to a new generation of learners, and note that his devotion can be seen in the countless weekends and holidays he spends helping students. A colleague summarized Mr. Lee by stating that he "eats, sleeps and breathes the students at Bronx Science."

NICOLA VITALE —

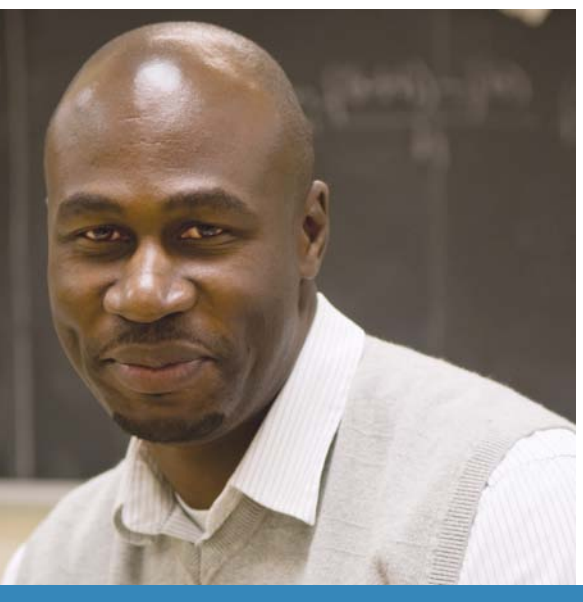
Physics, Algebra, Environmental Science, Thinking Math & Science
Banana Kelly High School

Coming from a family of teachers, Mr. Vitale gravitated toward hands-on learning and applied mathematics due to a childhood learning disability. An educator at Banana Kelly for 10 years, Mr. Vitale is regarded as a teacher of teachers. He's frequently praised by peers for his ability to strip concepts to fundamental levels, foster creativity and curiosity and transform mathematical study from right and wrong to concepts and logic. Collaborating with Mr. Vitale on a mathematics literacy program for underserved populations, a City College professor noted the rarity of "teachers who combine Nic's knowledge of the subject, knowledge about students and commitment to teaching."

MICHAEL P. KLIMETZ —

Earth Science, Physics, AP Physics, Material Science, Geology
John Dewey High School

After challenging conventional wisdom on Asian plate tectonics — which was eventually validated — Mr. Klimetz responded to an ad and ended up at John Dewey where he's been teaching for the last 14 years. His award winning students consistently mention his resource-rich web site and "tons" of rock specimens. Colleagues praise the time he spends preparing hands-on experiments, how hard he works to adjust methods of explanation and his focus on creating a comfortable environment where students can learn and exercise critical inquiry. A former student summarized it best when he stated that Mr. Klimetz, "observes, listens and answers every student."



FREDRICK NELSON —

Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus
Wings Academy

Mr. Nelson came to Wings Academy six years ago and immediately began imparting his vision: mathematics is a language, and to speak it makes understanding technology and successful careers possible. Famous for detailed, careful preparation, he always aims to help students realize that they can solve problems themselves. These "eureka moments" create confidence, empower students and build student-teacher loyalty — inspiring joy and engagement. Infectious enthusiasm and confidence-building, with careful attention to skill-development, continually affects Mr. Nelson's students. "He has a great way of helping us understand," said one student. "After taking his class, I want to be a math professor."

Sarah Shatz, Photography

SELECTION PANEL

Sheldon Weinbaum, PhD, Engineering
Chair Of The Selection Panel
CUNY Distinguished Professor of Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering
The City College of New York

Jill Bargonetti-Chavarria, PhD, Biology
Professor of Biological Sciences, Hunter College

Derrick Brazill, PhD, Biology
Associate Professor of Biology, Hunter College

John Ewing, PhD, Mathematics
President, Math for America

Ira Flatow, Science Journalist
Host, NPR's Science Friday;
Founder and President, Talking Science

Alan Friedman, PhD, Physics
Consultant, Museum Development and Science Communication;
Former Director and CEO, New York Hall of Science

Gregory Gunn, Technology Entrepreneur
Chief Scientist and Co-Founder, Wireless Generation

Margaret Honey, PhD, Developmental Psychology
President and CEO, New York Hall of Science

Vikram Kapila, PhD, Mechanical Engineering
Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering,
Polytechnic Institute of New York University

Rosamond Kinzler, PhD, Experimental Petrology
Senior Director, National Center for Science Literacy,
Education and Technology, American Museum of Natural History

Michael J. O'Neill, Journalist and Author
Former Editor, NY Daily News;
Former Board Chair, Fund for the City of New York

Ruth Stark, PhD, Chemistry
Director, CUNY Institute for Macromolecular Assemblies
Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Member of the CUNY Doctoral Faculty
The City College of New York

Lev Sviridov, Inorganic Chemistry
Graduate of The City College of New York
Rhodes Scholar, Oxford University
Doctoral Candidate

Maribel Vazquez, ScD, Biomedical Engineering
Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering,
The City College of New York

FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
SLOAN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
2009

THE AWARD

In fall 2009, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Fund for the City of New York launched the Sloan Awards for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics in New York City Public High Schools. They recognize creative science and mathematics teachers who achieve superb results and inspire young people to pursue careers in science and mathematics.

Each year, seven Sloan Awards for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics will be given. Each award is $7,500: $5,000 for the teacher and $2,500 to strengthen the school's science or mathematics program. All science and mathematics teachers in New York City's more than 300 high schools who have taught for at least five years, and who demonstrate excellence in teaching and in achieving results, are qualified to be nominated. The winners are chosen by an independent panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators.

Nominations for 2010 awards will be accepted from December 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010. More information and a nomination form are available at www.fcny.org.

ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION
The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a philanthropic nonprofit institution established by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. in 1934. Its main programs involve science and technology, standard of living and economic performance, education and careers in science and technology, selected national issues and a civic program. The goal of the civic program is to contribute to New York City by responding to special opportunities the city presents, and by funding high-leverage programs related to its areas of interest. The Sloan Public Service Awards, presented annually by the Fund for the City of New York, have been part of its civic program since 1985.

FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
The Fund for the City of New York was established by the Ford Foundation in 1968 with the mandate to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. In partnership with government agencies, nonprofit institutions and foundations, the Fund has developed and helped to implement innovations in policy, programs, practices and technology in order to advance the functioning of government and nonprofit organizations in New York City and beyond. The Fund seeks out, adapts, applies and assesses ways to enable government and non-profit agencies to achieve excellence through its five core programs—the Cash Flow Loan Program, the Incubator Program, the Sloan Public Service Awards, the Sloan Awards for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics and Technology Consulting. The Fund also fulfills its mission through three strategic initiatives: the Center on Government Performance, the Center for Nonprofit Enterprise Solutions and the Center for Internet Innovation/E-Community Connect.

Fund for the City of New York • 121 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10013 • www.fcny.org
Mary McCormick, President