

Wednesday, Dec 02, 2015

## Oakland University students share stories of those who inspire them

The Honors College accepted 12 faculty nominee essays from students from around the university in celebration of the 2015 Inspiration Awards.

While all were spotlighted for their dedication to the student experience, student Joseph Pham's essay stood out as the "most inspiring" on behalf of Dr. Daniel Lorca, assistant professor of Modern Languages.

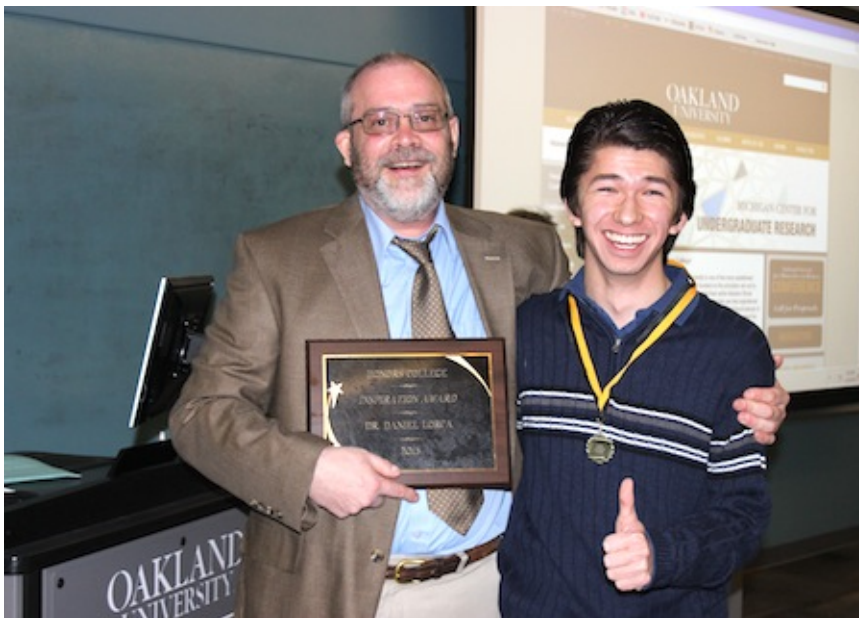
Pham wrote in his nomination, "El profesor excelentísimo de español Daniel Lorca has inspired me both as a gentleman and a scholar. A man well versed in both refined-language and the literary arts, Professor Lorca also 'aspires to rise' each and every day far beyond the typical call of duty for a foreign language instructor."

Later in the nomination, Pham added, "Through Lorca's tutelage, my personal fluency and comfort in speaking said Romantic language have never been better. As an incoming freshman last year, I actually sought to abandon Spanish at the first chance I could, but because of this hombre de honor I have never been so in love with a lengua in my life."

"It is with great pride we build upon the growing tradition of the Inspiration Awards," noted Graeme Harper, Ph.D., dean of The Honors College and host of the awards program. "This year's honorees have not only made a difference for their nominators, but undoubtedly for scores of other students who have been impacted by their dedication to higher education."

The following are all of the 2015 Inspiration Award nominees and nominators:

- Dr. John Carroll, assistant professor of Anthropology, nominated by Louise Haven
- Tara Gardner, special lecturer in Spanish/Modern Languages, nominated by Taylor Kanigowski
- Dr. Hsiang-Hua (Melanie) Chang, associate professor of Chinese, nominated by Brandon Metcalf
- Dr. Akiko Kashiwagi-Wood, assistant professor, Japanese, nominated by Adam Seidel
- Dr. Andrea Knutsen, assistant professor of English, nominated by Genna Wilber
- Dr. Daniel Lorca, assistant professor, Modern Languages, nominated by Joseph Pham
- Dr. Krista Malley, manager for Student Success, nominated by Alexa Ruhfass
- Laura Ochs, clinical instructor, Biomedical Sciences, nominated by Aaron Helander
- Dr. Susan Spencer-Wood, Anthropology, nominated by Amanda Sosnowski
- Christina Tasco, special lecturer in Dance, nominated by Rachel Deratany
- Dr. Terri Towner, assistant professor of Political Science, nominated by Jacqueline Yee
- Stephanie Vallie, special instructor, Nursing, nominated by Justin Walukonis



*Professor Daniel Lorca shown at the 2015 Inspiration Awards ceremony with his nominating student, Joseph Pham.*