

Awards Night 2016



**Paisley Currah: Faculty Citizenship Award
Presented by: Peter Liberman**

Our annual Awards Night brings the Program together to honor the achievements of outstanding faculty, students, and alumni. In this year's event, held on May 6, Professor Paisley Currah received the Faculty Citizenship Award for his tremendous service to the Department.



**Professor Uday Mehta
received the Faculty
Mentor Award for his
pedagogical prowess.**

**Uday Mehta: Faculty Mentor Award
Presented by: Philip Johnson**



**Jessica Mahlbacher: Student Citizenship Award
Presented by: Peter Liberman**

Jessica Mahlbacher received the Student Citizenship Award for her dedication to the Program.

And Elizabeth Newcomer received the Best M.A. Thesis award for her outstanding scholarship.



**Elizabeth Newcomer: Best M.A. Thesis Award
Presented by: Alyson Cole**



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The highlight of the evening was when Jennifer Disney, Department Chair and Professor of Political Science at Winthrop University, received our Distinguished Alum Award for her career achievements, including her groundbreaking book *Women's Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua* (Temple University Press, 2008). She delivered the

evening's keynote address, excerpts of which are included below.

From Professor Disney's Keynote:

"When I was writing my dissertation, Lenny [Markovitz]'s advice to me was to tell an interesting story. Tonight, I'm going to try to tell a few interesting stories of the topic of comparative intersectional feminisms. When I first ... said I wanted to do a dissertation comparing the revolutions and counterrevolutions in neoliberal democratization processes in Mozambique and Nicaragua, from the perspective of women and feminism, I was not immediately met with open arms. I was warned about the regionalism and territoriality of comparative political scientists and encouraged to study, say, Mozambique and Angola, or Nicaragua and Cuba. But I was persistent ... I wanted to do a cross-regional comparison because that would truly show that despite different regional histories, cultures, languages, and other key variables, the same limitations and opportunities persisted for women in revolutionary contexts in relation to state-party organizations.

"I had the opportunity to co-edit a special issue of *New Political Science* on intersectionality for the global age in December 2015, with my co-editor, Dr. Jocelyn Boryczka.... In this special issue, we challenge our contributors to apply



**Jennifer Disney: Distinguished Alum Award
Presented by: Lenny Markovitz, Ken Erickson**

intersectional theories and methodologies to some of the most pressing political issues of our time. The issue includes an article on Hannah Arendt, which is actually written by another Distinguished CUNY Alum Award winner, Kathy Jones; an article on 'Intersectional citizenship, violence, and lesbian resistance in South Africa;' articles on sex-selective abortion in the UK, policing transgender populations, rethinking relationships between the Global North and the Global South, and a piece that tries to argue (though [Boryczka] and I think unconvincingly) for the political primacy of class as intersectionality's binding agent."

Watch Disney's full keynote address [here](#).

