

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

2020 MASA Graduate Student Mentor Award

Deadline: May 1, 2020

The MASA Graduate Student Mentor Award recognizes excellence in graduate student mentorship, and is aimed at senior or mid-career scholars who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to teaching and mentorship throughout their careers, particularly those who have taken the time to successfully guide their MA and PhD students through their research and the thesis or dissertation writing process. The Mentor Award was established in 2006 and previous recipients of the last several years include Lesley Sharp (2019), Joan Stevenson (2018), Kimberly Theidon (2017), Charles Briggs (2016), and Janelle Taylor (2015).

Attributes to Consider

- Communicates clearly and supportively with students and offers consistent, positive guidance; provides timely and productive feedback on written work
- Creates a friendly, encouraging and academically challenging environment; makes an effort to teach medical anthropology in innovative and effective ways
- Encourages students to submit abstracts of their own at conferences, write and submit their own work to journals, teach well and value teaching, and begin to function on their own in those public arenas that include medical anthropology
- Has a good track record of retaining students: remaining on committees, retaining advisees, and graduating a good proportion of their advisees
- Inspires students to pursue their own research, teaching, and advocacy goals in medical anthropology
- Helps students connect with other professionals in their field outside of their own departments and helps familiarize them with the unwritten rules of their professional community
- Steps back and allows students to learn from their own mistakes; lets them step forward on their own and begin making their own decisions; lets them define and take appropriate risks
- Models professionalism in the classroom, in the office, at conferences, on social media, and in all public and private interactions
- Acknowledges and is sensitive to the unique challenges that some students face, rather than attempting a one-size-fits-all approach to advising

Nomination Procedures and Application Materials

A minimum of three letters of nomination should be from current and/or former students outlining the ways in which the candidate has been a strong mentor, advisor, and/or teacher. Additional letters may also be submitted by junior colleagues whom the candidate has mentored; however, this is not a requirement. Each letter should consider the above criteria and address any other attributes or practices that have led to supportive, successful mentoring. Nominations for the faculty mentor award will remain open for three years for consideration by the award committee.

Submissions

Nomination and support letters will be accepted until the deadline of May 1, 2020. Please send all nomination letters to Dick Powis at richard.powis@wustl.edu. The award recipient will be honored during the SMA Business Meeting and Award Ceremony at the AAA Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri in November.