



Photo by Frank Wojciechowski



At its April awards ceremony, the joint graduate and undergraduate Engineering Councils honored four graduate students for excellence in teaching: Christian Bell (left) of computer science; Richard Baliban (center) and William Holloway (not shown) of chemical engineering; and Mitja Stadje (right) of operations research and financial engineering. Theresa Cho (front left) of the Graduate Engineering Council and Rebecca Yu (front right) of the undergraduate Engineering Council presented the awards.

Graduate students honored for teaching and research

ENVIRON Foundation and a Princeton Environmental Institute-Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (PEI-STEP) fellowship.

When he's not in the field, MacDonald is a community associate for the Office of Graduate Student Life, organizing and hosting events, including movie nights and cooking classes.

His interest in environment and society developed while he was an undergraduate student at Northeastern University earning a bachelor's degree in biomedical physics. He enrolled in a sociology course that demonstrated how scientific expertise could be applied to major societal problems, which motivated him to pursue graduate studies in the environmental arena.

"The issue of water is so intensely driven by societal needs and constraints," he said, "and there's an opportunity to have a real-world impact on people and ecosystems."

Jacobus Prize

The Porter Ogden Jacobus Fellowship is the highest honor Princeton University bestows on graduate students, awarded each year to just four students whose work has displayed the highest scholarly excellence.

Electrical engineer Vaneet Aggarwal was among those selected for the 2009–10 fellowship, while Peter DiMaggio of chemical engineering received the 2008–09 Jacobus fellowship. Aggarwal has published papers on a wide range of topics concerning digital communications, from error correction to secrecy capacity. DiMaggio focuses on the new field of proteomics—the large-scale study of proteins in a living system.

Graduate teaching awards

The Graduate School honored two engineering grad students for their outstanding abilities as teachers at a dinner May 30. The winners, Katherine Meierdiercks of civil and environmental engineering and Ilya Ryzhov of operations research and financial engineering, were among six students honored this year.

Meierdiercks was recognized for her work with the Princeton Writing Program where she led a seminar on "The Science and Politics of Urban Sprawl" and earned consistent praise from her students.

Ryzhov was honored for his care and skill in leading precepts, which one student described as "perhaps the most thorough precepts I had ever experienced."