

ments and Vocals, for arrangement of “Sue (Or in a Season of Crime),” by David Bowie, from his retrospective album *Nothing Has Changed* (Columbia/Legacy).

Smithsonian Recognizes Rudolph Tanzi '80 for Ingenuity


Rudolph Tanzi '80 is among the best known and most accomplished scientists in the field of Alzheimer's disease research. In its annual announcement of top American innovators, *Smithsonian* magazine named Tanzi, the Joseph P. and Rose F. Kennedy Professor of Neurology at Harvard and the director of genetics and aging research at Massachusetts General Hospital, as among 12 winners of its American Ingenuity Award.

Late in 2014, Tanzi and Doo Yeon Kim, also of Harvard, developed a new means of tracking the progress of Alzheimer's and experimenting with new treatments. According to the citation in *Smithsonian*, the new technique, a cell culture dubbed “Alzheimer's in a dish,” “is considered the most persuasive and useful laboratory model yet invented of the neurodegenerative disease. It offers researchers a chance to both track the course of Alzheimer's in unprecedented biochemical and genetic detail, and to quickly and cheaply test thousands of potential treatments that might block or at least slow its malign progress.”

Earlier in 2015, *Time* magazine acknowledged the discovery by naming Tanzi one of the world's 100 Most Influential People.

A National Honor for a Pediatric Pioneer

Robert Brent '48, '53M (MD), '55M (PhD), '88 (Honorary) is the winner of the 2015 Gustav O. Lienhard Award, a national honor recognizing outstanding achievement in improving health care service. The award is given annually to one person by the National Academy of Medicine.

Early in his career, Brent conducted pathbreaking research on environmental risk factors for birth defects. His research provided groundwork for much modern understanding of the nature and degree of risk to the developing fetus from radiation, as well as from various drugs and chemicals. Brent has also played an educational role, offering free counseling to pregnant women about the risks for most of his 60-plus-year career. Brent is the Louis and Bess Stein Professor of Pediatrics at Sidney Kimmel Medical College in Philadelphia. 

Top Teacher

Brian Alegant '93E (PhD) is earning high marks for his work as a professor of music theory at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Alegant, who has taught at Oberlin since 1996, was named this fall as one of four U.S. Professors of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, or CASE, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Representing undergraduate baccalaureate institutions, Alegant was one of four professors selected from nearly 400 nominees for the national honor.



According to Oberlin, he's the first music professor to be honored in the 35-year history of the award.

A respected theoretician whose research interests include performance and analysis, pedagogy, and twelve-tone music, Alegant has published widely in peer-reviewed journals.

His book on the twelve-tone music of Luigi Dallapiccola (published by the University of Rochester Press) has also been well regarded by peers and colleagues.

Known for cultivating music theory classes that are notoriously challenging—and students who sign up on wait lists to take part in them—Alegant routinely earns accolades from students for his brilliance, passion, fairness, and wit.

“The whole idea for me,” he has said, “is to put the student in charge of his or her own learning.”

At Oberlin, Alegant also serves as chair of the conservatory's Division of Music Theory, a position that makes him a mentor to Oberlin's one-year postdoctoral instructors, each of whom has gone on to full-time work in higher education.

While a doctoral student at the Eastman School of Music, Alegant received the school's Teaching Assistant Prize in 1985.

CASE launched the program in 1981, and since then has recognized 1,200 teachers at state and national levels. Awards are given in four categories: undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and community college institutions.

Nominees are judged on their influence and involvement with undergraduate students, their approaches to teaching and learning, their contributions to undergraduate education in their institution, community, and profession, and support from colleagues and students.

The entries are judged by top U.S. instructors and other leaders in education.

CASE BY CASE: Oberlin music professor Brian Alegant '93E (PhD) was named Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.