

The two recipients of the **2019-2020 Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentor Award** are:

John Baez, PhD  
Mathematics

Dr. Baez has been a professor at UCR since 1989. During his time as a professor and advisor, Dr. Baez developed a long legacy of advising, mentoring, and friendship with both students and colleagues. Dr. Baez had several nominations submitted for the Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentor Award from current and past students and colleagues. A true testament to the passion and dedication he has for his students. Successful in their own right, many attribute this to Dr. Baez's unwavering guidance. To quote one of his past students, "John was literally the difference between me continuing my graduate education or leaving it behind; I do not know where I would be without him. His influence was so great in my life that I am forever grateful." This is just one example of Dr. Baez's impact on so many of his students who have gone on to great careers in their own right.

Mary Droser, PhD  
Geology

Dr. Droser has been a faculty member in the UC system since 1989. In 2020 she was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and she received the 2019 Moore Medal in Paleontology from the Society for Sedimentary Geology. While collecting such accolades, Dr. Droser has also been a dedicated mentor to her students. She received several nominations for this year's Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentor Award from students who have gone on to some of the most prestigious universities and museum in the US. Her mentoring just doesn't consist of her own field, but pressing upon her students to go where their passions lead them. To quote a couple of those former students, which demonstrate the extent of her mentorship: "Perhaps most impressive about Mary is that her excellence as an advisor does not stop with her own graduate students or with things related to science. She has personally counseled me through a variety of life altering decisions and I often feel more like a member of her family than on of her graduate students." Another goes on to say, "One of the most important reasons why Dr. Droser is such a successful mentor is because she does not try to reshape her students into her own mold."