CAAS Professors Honored at 2017 Robins Awards Ceremony

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Professor Silvana Martini and Associate Professor Rebecca Lawver in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences were recognized for their hard work and dedication at the 2017 Robins Awards ceremony. Lawver received the Faculty University Service Award while Martini was honored as the Faculty Researcher of the Year.

Lawver is currently the advisor of USU’s Sigma chapter of Alpha Tau Alpha, a professional organization for pre-service agricultural education teachers and Extension agents. In addition to teaching and research, she serves on university councils for athletics, teacher education and is a member of the faculty senate. Through her leadership class, USU students have provided over 100 hours of service to the campus and Cache Valley.

“Faculty engagement is vital to the health and future success of our campus community,” Lawver said. “We have incredibly talented faculty and students here at USU with diverse backgrounds, ideas and goals. Having opportunities to work with a variety of people from all over campus has been fantastic.”

Martini said she wasn’t expecting to win the award, but is proud and honored to accept it.

“I am very honored to receive this award and it is a privilege to represent the college,” Martini said. “I also want to thank the college, the department, colleagues and students for their help and support. I enjoy training the next generation of scientists. The most rewarding part of my work is to help students grow as professionals and keep them motivated in their careers.”

The Robins Awards are considered among the highest honors at Utah State. The awards night, which is one of the most distinguished events of the year, is held in honor of William E. Robins. Robins served as USU’s student body president in 1949 and tragically passed away in a plane crash in 1954.

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Martini, an internationally recognized researcher, studies how the quality of foods are affected by their nano-, micro- and macroscopic characteristics. Her work focuses on manipulating fats in food to make them healthier and appealing to both consumers and the food industry. Her hard work and determination is evident as she has published papers in 70 peer-reviewed journals, 11 book chapters and 1 book. She uses her enthusiasm for research to encourage students to participate in research activities of their own.