

GRADUATE SCHOOL Brown, Tienda honored as outstanding alumni

Thousands of students receive master's or doctoral degrees from the University every year. For these students, their work conducted at the University is the beginning of a career that challenges them intellectually and personally, while driving them to improve their local and global communities.

Every spring, two graduate school alumni are honored for their outstanding contributions to academe and society, and two current graduate students receive fellowships in honor of those alumni. The Outstanding Graduate School Alumni for 2003 are Robert A. Brown and Marta Tienda.

Brown, BS '73, MS '75, received his doctoral degree in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1979. He serves as the provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition to being a professor since 1979, Brown's MIT positions have included head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, 1989-95; co-director of the Supercomputer Facility, 1989-94; and dean of engineering, 1996-98. His research focuses on mathematical modeling and fluid mechanics, and he is credited with more than 240 publica-

tions and several prestigious lectures. In addition, Brown has received 17 different awards over the last 25 years and has held office or served on committees for 10 different professional societies.

"Robert Brown exemplifies service to one's profession and dedication to an educational institution," wrote John G. Ekerdt, Dick Rothwell Endowed Professor in Chemical Engineering, in his letter nominating Brown for the award. "His accomplishments and contributions to both education and his profession have been endless and unceasing."

Tienda, MS '74, PhD '76, a South Texas native, received her bachelor's degree in Spanish from Michigan State University in 1972. Today, she is a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University, where she has been since 1997.

After her work at the University of Wisconsin at Madison from 1977-87 — where she became a professor in 1983 — Tienda moved to the University of Chicago, where she became chair of the Department of Sociology. Currently, she is the president of the Population Association of America and has been elected to the Sociological Research Association, the

American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Tienda has authored, co-authored, or edited seven books and more than 100 journal articles and has served as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Sociology*. Her research and teaching focus on societal inequalities — how they are shaped and how they relate to individuals' opportunities and constraints.

"Professor Tienda's career has exemplified true excellence in academic leadership, research, teaching, mentorship and service," wrote Omer R. Galle, Robert A. Hummer, Debra Umerson, and Christie L. Williams, all from the Department of Sociology, in their nomination letter. "Clearly, [her] academic achievements are extraordinary, taking her to great heights within her disciplines of focus and making her a major public figure on matters relating to social inequalities in the United States and elsewhere."

Associate Dean Rick Cherwitz, who proposed the creation of Outstanding Alumni award, says, "It gives much-deserved recognition to UT's extremely successful and accomplished graduate school alumni who, as citizen-scholars, are making con-



Robert A. Brown

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siderable contributions not only to the academic, but also to the larger, community."

In honor of the 2003 Outstanding Graduate Alumni, the graduate school awarded the Robert A. Brown Fellowship for 2003-04 to Tobias Hanrath, a doctoral student in chemical engineering, and the Marta Tienda Fellowship for 2003-04 to Julie Dowling, a doctoral student in sociology. — Sarah A. Rodriguez



Marta Tienda