They come from different disciplines and backgrounds, but all have one thing in common: the ability to inspire and teach students. This year’s five Excellence in Teaching Award winners, selected by the provost, will be honored at Saturday’s morning commencement for their dedication and outstanding performance in the classroom.
NAME: Mishac Yegian
TITLE: Professor and chair, civil engineering
YEARS AT NU: 19

HOBBIES  Exploring nature, fishing, camping, basketball
LAST BOOK READ FOR FUN  “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People,” by Stephen R. Covey
MOST ADIMRED PERSON  President John F. Kennedy. “He inspired people to rise to the challenges. That’s what teaching is all about.”
INSPIRATION TO BECOME AN EDUCATOR  “A couple of professors during my undergraduate and graduate days who showed so much care to impart knowledge. They set examples by the way they simply enjoyed what they were doing.”
MOST MEMORABLE OR REWARDING TEACHING EXPERIENCE  “Years ago I was asked to be a consultant for a power plant, and one of the lead engineers there told me that I had flunked him in a course and that he was grateful because he deserved it. He re-took the course and got an A.”
DREAM JOB  “Some profession where I could work with people and nature.”
FAVORITE TEACHER  “My high school physics teacher, because he always challenged me to do better and he always made physics enjoyable.”