A human skull full of surprises handed over the 24th David L. Underwood Memorial Award to Michael Fuller.

"A previous winner [Lea Plarski] came in my office and started asking me questions about a skull," Fuller, professor of anthropology, said. "And like a teacher, I went on and on. When I opened the skull, there was a piece of paper inside telling me I had won the award."

Plarski really surprised Fuller in the way she told him he was the winner, Fuller said. "I didn't even know I was nominated," Fuller said. "It was the last thing on my mind."

"My heart just soared," Fuller said about winning the award.

"You have to be a hard worker," Fuller said.

When the recipient is told that they are the year's winner, they are not supposed to tell anyone.

"It was a mystery until the last minute," Fuller said. "I didn't even tell the secretaries or the student workers."

Fuller said he dressed in his normal day attire so no one would suspect a thing.

"You're told not to dress up or wear a suit," Fuller said. "At the announcement everyone is looking around for the person dressed extra nice.

Fuller commented on how grateful he was to receive the award. "I am still smiling," Fuller said a week after receiving the award. "It's the recognition that is the reward. You receive a lot of smiles and pats on the back."