



ACADEMIC RECOGNITION CEREMONY



A P R I L 27, 2023



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Closing Remarks

President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

The President's Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to teaching. This year, there are ten awards. Since 1977, 308 Wayne State University faculty members have been recognized for their teaching with these awards.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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School of Medicine

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Department of Finance
Mike Ilitch School of Business

Fay Keys

School of Social Work

■ R E C I P I E N T S

MOHSEN AYOObi

Associate Professor, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Engineering

Professor Mohsen Ayoobi, a dynamic and energetic teacher in the Department of Engineering Technology, has acquired a well-earned reputation for presenting engaging coursework and being a passionate educator and tireless innovator. Active in course, curriculum, and laboratory development, Professor Ayoobi has an impressive record of scholarship and service and, in 2019, received the College of Engineering Excellence in Teaching Award. He has secured multiple grants, providing significant scholarship awards for talented but financially disadvantaged students. Ayoobi's classroom leadership inspires and motivates his students throughout a wide variety of classes taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Actively committed to his teaching performance, he provides vital and challenging coursework tempered with attainable goals that aim to build confidence and retention. In addition, Professor Ayoobi's advocacy continues well after graduation, as he takes an active role in mentoring former students as they forge ahead in their professional careers.

NATALIE BAKOPOULOS

Associate Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Bakopoulos is an accomplished author who expertly teaches creative writing to undergraduate and graduate students. Through several courses that she has designed, seminars, and workshops, she has carefully crafted an effective teaching style with an outstanding dedication to inclusion and equity. She purposefully and effectively creates a nurturing classroom environment, applying a carefully calibrated blend of constructive criticism and encouragement that inspires her students to flourish. Peers, past students, and mentees uniformly praise the effectiveness of her combination of empathy and rigor, as one put it. She continually updates her pedagogy with innovative approaches that foster self-learning and awareness in the creative process. Student evaluations are uniformly excellent, and past students praise her for teaching them the craft in an inspiring way. By all accounts, Professor Bakopoulos is a tremendous asset to our students and well deserving of the high honor of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



RECIPIENTS

President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

SARAH BROWNLEE

Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Geology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Sarah Brownlee is an empathic and attentive professor. Students and faculty alike note that she is known for ensuring no student is left behind and for having an exceptional degree of knowledge in the subject and enthusiasm in the classroom. Fellow faculty express admiration for her efforts to connect with all students in class. Students praise Professor Brownlee as an exceptional educator who consistently demonstrates the ability to help students understand content in class and the field and for going above and beyond to help students at every opportunity, particularly students experiencing difficulties with online learning. She fosters students' learning through encouragement in her courses, which has had a major impact on geology instruction at Wayne State. For these reasons, Professor Brownlee is a worthy recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

CAROLYN DAYTON

Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Professor Carolyn Dayton is an outstanding and dedicated teacher in the School of Social Work and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development. As the Associate Director of the Infant Mental Health training program, Professor Dayton has played a central role in expanding that program, developing its curriculum, and directly training future infant mental health professionals. She is demonstrably committed to her students and, by extension, to the communities that they will serve. She is known for her ability to adapt her teaching to individual student needs and strengths and to harness the power of diversity in the classroom. Students rate her classroom teaching as outstanding and praise her mentoring as inspirational. Professor Dayton's expertise and dedication to training are also reflected in her contributions to curriculum development at the local and national levels. She is among the most valuable teachers in the University, and she is well deserving of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

LAUREN DUQUETTE-RURY

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Lauren Duquette-Rury combines inspiration, rigor, and compassion in her classroom teaching and her extensive encouragement of student learning across the university. Professor Duquette-Rury's remarkable successes in the classroom and her innovative field trips and popular office hours are just a small part of her contribution to students' learning at Wayne State. As a first-generation college student, she has been especially attuned to the challenges of Wayne State students and the remarkable intellectual growth that those students can achieve with the support of caring teachers and mentors. From the beginning of her time at Wayne State, Professor Duquette-Rury has taken active steps to promote students' well-being and mental health. Her foresight prepared her to take the lead during COVID as she built support systems and supported students and faculty alike as they struggled with new demands. Her effective care for students and the university community clearly merits the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

ARIEL HELFER

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Ariel Helfer inspires students to think deeply about the world and their place in it through his passionate, generous teaching of classic works in political thought. Students find Professor Helfer's courses so compelling and persuasive that those who take one usually try to take them all. Professor Helfer's passionate teaching has led many of his students to pursue graduate studies on political and philosophical questions. Even those who pursue other paths eagerly describe how he has taught them to continue asking meaningful questions in their personal and professional lives. Whether during his extensive office hours, his Math Camp for political scientists, or his other activities outside the classroom, Professor Helfer gives his time and wisdom to undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty colleagues. His enthusiastic and effective teaching well deserves the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

CHRISTINE KNAPP

Assistant Professor (Teaching), Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Christine Knapp is an inspiring professor who uses new technologies to enhance learning in the classroom. Her classes are well known to be modern, technology-centric, engaging, and fun. She uses new technologies in class to make the course more interactive. She started using Nearpod and online platforms to make teaching more interactive and engaging in 2015. Many of her graduate teaching students have learned this over the years from her and have started using it in their courses. They have also used this skill to pivot for jobs elsewhere. She also gives excellent feedback to students and successfully nudges them to participate in outside classroom activities that enhance their French speaking skills. She takes students on a study abroad trip to Paris, which several have found to be a transformative experience. If she cannot take students on a trip to a foreign country, she finds a way to engage them by conversing with strangers from another country through zoom. Christine is also very compassionate towards her students and can adjust to provide her students with a great learning experience in her class.

BARRY LYONS

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Barry Lyons is an educational innovator, outstanding teacher, and mentor. His colleague says he comes alive in the classroom. He becomes a scholar-entertainer, thoroughly commanding the classroom setting, introducing challenging topics in an accessible and engaging manner, and demonstrating control over the subject matter, in a way that gains the students' deep respect. During the pandemic, Professor Lyons saw an opportunity and develop a creative teaching approach to take advantage of a difficult situation. He redesigned his course to help students manage the isolation of the epidemic. He is deeply committed to student-centered participatory learning activities that motivate students to discover how the material is relevant and applicable to their interests. Professor Lyons has truly gone above and beyond all expectations as a teacher. He ultimately is worthy of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching award recognition.



RECIPIENTS

President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

KATHRYN SMOLINSKI

Associate Professor (Clinical), Law School

Kathryn Smolinski is a beloved and admired member of the WSU Law School. A clinical professor who combines legal acumen with practical wisdom, Professor Smolinski heads a program unique to Wayne State. Directing the Legal Advocacy for Persons with Cancer Clinic, a program she personally designed, bridges the Law School and School of Social Work by providing legal services at the Karmonos Cancer Center for patients who cannot afford an attorney. An inspiring innovator and influential teacher, her students describe Professor Smolinski as energetic and engaging, bringing a thoughtful and compassionate human element to her teaching. Testimonials describe her continual efforts to improve thinking and problem-solving skills that build confidence in a supportive environment. Beyond teaching those skills necessary to secure a successful legal career, Professor Smolinski emphasizes work-life balance and personal wellness. While honing their skills, students learn, by example, the humanity that binds lawyer and client.

YOUNG-RO YOON

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

His undergraduate and graduate students highly regard Professor Young-Ro Yoon for making abstract and quantitatively intensive courses intuitive and digestible. He is rated highly by his students. His teaching style focuses not only on “how” but also on “why” to solve the problem, a technique student finds inspiring and engaging. He uses real work examples to keep students engaged and push and challenge them to think critically. He has been a star performer in his game theory class, where students learn how individuals, groups, and firms make decisions strategically when their actions affect each other. He has developed a way of teaching that does not require a background in calculus and has been well-received by students. Besides perfecting the art of explaining critical economic concepts through various angles, Professor Yoon is also patient, approachable, and caring to his students, a side of his that equally impresses them.

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowships

These fellowships were created to recognize and provide support for members of the faculty whose continuing achievements and current activities in scholarship, research, or the fine and performing arts are nationally distinguished.

The Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships are part of the benefaction to Wayne State University by Charles H. Gershenson, who formerly served on the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowships are derived from revenues especially available to the Board. The term of each fellowship is two years. Since 1985, 93 Charles H. Gershenson Fellowships and 96 Board of Governors Fellowships have been awarded.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Sara Kacin, Chair

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Anne Duggan

Department of Classical and Modern Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Izabela Podgorski

Department of Pharmacology
School of Medicine

Ljiljana Progovac

Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Tingting Yan

Department of Marketing
and Supply Chain Management
Mike Ilitch School of Business

■ R E C I P I E N T

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships

DANIEL ISAKSEN

Professor, Department of Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Daniel Isaksen has carried out groundbreaking research in the field of algebraic topology. With his collaborators, Professor Isaksen developed the most recent tool for calculating the homotopy groups of spheres called the motivic spectral sequence. With this new approach, Professor Isaksen and his team have effectively doubled the range of calculation. This landmark breakthrough has earned them a nomination for the distinguished Veblen Prize, one of the most highly regarded distinctions in mathematics. Their findings appeared in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, which publishes studies representing recent breakthroughs of such influence that they are deemed essential knowledge among the larger community of mathematicians as well as scientists from other fields. This speaks to the impact of Professor Isaksen's research beyond the field of mathematics. Moreover, Professor Isaksen's 2019 book, *Stable Stems*, has become a standard reference for explicit calculations of homotopy groups of spheres. Professor Isaksen will use the Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to support his ongoing computations of the stable homotopy groups of spheres and further development of the electronic Computational Homotopy Theory (eCHT) research community, which has repeatedly received NSF funding.



RECIPIENTS

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships **Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowships**

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

FRANCESCA LUCA

Professor, Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, School of Medicine

Dr. Francesca Luca is a highly published, well-funded, and internationally recognized scientist who has made significant research advancements in the field of integrative biomedical genomics. Her research focuses on understanding the genetic and molecular basis of inter-individual and inter-population differences in complex phenotypes. Dr. Luca has been continuously supported by multiple national and international grants, serves on various grant review panels and editorial boards for two major journals, and is currently a standing member of an NIH Genomics, Computational Biology, and Technology (GCAT) study section. Her international standing and high regard from the scientific community are further reflected in the numerous invitations to speak at local, national, and international conferences and in a recent appointment as an adjunct at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. The funds provided by this fellowship will be used to study puberty in African American children and to specifically examine the genes and epigenetic changes that modify the immunological function during puberty and contribute to sex-specific manifestation of disease during adulthood. This work is expected to provide a reference framework for studies of changes in immune function across multiple life stages.

Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowships

ABHIJIT BISWAS

Professor, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management, Mike Ilitch School of Business

Professor Abhijit Biswas has been the Kmart Endowed Chair and Professor of Marketing at Wayne State University since 2004. His research expertise in retailing and pricing earned him the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Marketing Association Retail and Pricing SIG in 2022. As the Kmart Endowed Chair, Professor Abhijit Biswas has maintained a nationally recognized stream of research activity in the marketing area. His work is also well cited – over 7000 citations and over 2700 citations since 2017. In addition to an impressive publication record at top marketing journals, he has mentored numerous Ph.D. students and junior faculty members, helping to publish at top marketing journals. Overall, Professor Biswas plays an important research leadership role within the Mike Ilitch School of Business's marketing area as well as within the academic and professional communities in marketing.

MICHAEL LIEBLER

Associate Professor (Teaching), Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Michael Liebler's lifelong focus has been making the arts, particularly poetry, accessible to broad audiences. His poetry, musical, and performance art endeavors are true celebrations of Detroit and the working-class experience. Professor Liebler has taught at Wayne State University since 1980, during which time he authored or edited more than twenty books and chapbooks. As a performance artist, he has made numerous audio and video recordings and given over sixty creative performances nationally in just the past five years. Internationally, his 2009 live performance in Akko, Israel, was featured on the U.S. State Department's-Tel Aviv website. In addition to serving as the Poet Laureate of St. Clair Shores, his many recognitions include receiving the Library of Michigan's Notable Book Award for his book *Heaven was Detroit*, the Michigan Humanities Council Outstanding Humanities Supporter Award, and six nominations for the Pushcart Literary Award. The funds this fellowship provides will be used to support Professor Liebler's latest project, the writing of his memoir, documenting his art and life in Detroit.

Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Awards

In 1974 the Board of Governors, in conjunction with the president, established an annual Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award to be given each year to members of the regular full-time faculty in recognition of a particular work of merit brought to fruition in the 12-month period immediately preceding the year of the award. Awards made in 2023 are based on accomplishments in 2021-22. The work of merit is a single act or event that constituted an outstanding contribution to scholarship and learning. Since 1975, 232 faculty members have received this award.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Susan Davis

Department of Pharmacy Practice
Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Kevin Deegan-Krause

Department of Political Science
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Karen Marrero

Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

■ R E C I P I E N T S

R. KHARI BROWN

Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RONALD BROWN

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes R. Khari Brown, Professor in the Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Ronald Brown, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for the publication of *Race and the Power of Sermons on American Politics* (University of Michigan Press, 2021). This important book draws on a wide range of sources, including public opinion surveys and original sermon texts, to help readers understand the interplay between organized religion and race and how they shape contemporary America. By interweaving responses from dozens of disparate surveys conducted over decades but never before considered together, the book tells a new story of how Americans engage with the messages of their religious leaders and how those leaders take (or avoid taking) public stands on issues of race and social justice which may then lead to political action. In an era of renewed concern about obvious racial injustice and widening polarization around response to that injustice, this book offers a nuanced and grounded account of how religious institutions can play a role in empowering citizens and improving their understanding of the interplay between religion and politics.



RECIPIENTS

Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Awards

DANIEL ELLMAN

Assistant Professor (Clinical), Law School

REBECCA ROBICHAUD

Assistant Professor (Clinical), Law School

The Board of Governors recognizes Daniel Ellman and Rebecca Robichaud, Assistant Professors (Clinical) in the Law School, for their work creating the Holistic Defense Partnership at Wayne State University. The Holistic Defense Partnership is a collaboration between the Law School and the School of Social Work, along with several other organizations, to provide legal and social services to criminal defendants. The program offers a client-centered and community-oriented approach to legal representation to meet defendants' complex human needs, including mental illness, substance abuse, eviction, homelessness, and immigration-related difficulties. Law students work alongside social work students, together with supervising attorneys and others, to provide creative and comprehensive representation that meets clients' individual needs and offer them the services they need, including counseling and advocacy. Professors Ellman and Robichaud leveraged their professional backgrounds and community connections to develop the partnership on top of their regular duties and have already achieved significant success for their students and the wider community.

HILARY MARUSAK

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences, School of Medicine

The Board of Governors recognizes Hilary Marusak, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, School of Medicine, for establishing and advancing the Science Policy Network-Detroit. Science Policy Network-Detroit (Sci-Pol Detroit) was founded in 2020 by students in Professor Marusak's laboratory, and under her guidance, it has grown in number and influence. The purpose of this student organization is to improve science advocacy and communication between scientists, lawmakers, and the public. In June 2022, Dr. Marusak led a group of students and scientists from Sci-Pol Detroit to Washington, D.C., to meet with five members of the Michigan congressional delegation. The students discussed critical issues and legislation related to federal science funding, maternal and perinatal health, and health disparities. In her continued work as an advisor for Sci-Pol Detroit, Dr. Marusak has established a sustainable framework for students and faculty to advocate for science and have a lasting impact on the Wayne State University community.

DOUGLAS RISNER

Professor, Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

The Board of Governors recognizes Doug Risner in the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, for the publication of *Masculinity, Intersectionality and Identity: Why Boys (Don't) Dance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). Professor Risner's book, co-edited with Beccy Watson, comprises significant works from twenty-one international scholars that illustrate the myriad experiences of and challenges faced by male dancers and how dance might shape a man's or boy's sense of self. This volume, to which Professor Risner is also a contributor, uniquely brings together artistic practice, dance pedagogy, and theory with a forward-thinking approach that challenges and disrupts persistent gendered norms of the dance world, dance scholarship, and beyond. *Masculinity, Intersectionality and Identity: Why Boys (Don't) Dance* is a groundbreaking volume that will contribute to advancing equity and inclusivity in dance education, research, and practice. Professor Risner's commitment to intellectual artistry, a lifetime of advocating for representation of boys and men in dance, and his unwavering commitment to mentoring and teaching a new generation of dance educators and scholars is inspired and exemplary.

KRYSTA RYZEWSKI

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Krysta Ryzewski, Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for the publication of *Detroit Remains: Archaeology and Community Histories of Six Legendary Places* (University of Alabama Press, 2022). A trail-blazing voice in the fields of contemporary and historical archaeology, Professor Ryzewski combines a multi-disciplinary approach with contemporary storytelling and community engagement to bring deep place-based and under-represented accounts back into the narrative of Detroit's history. *Detroit Remains* examines complex issues at the intersection of race, class, and gender relations through six case studies of historic sites that date from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Through Professor Ryzewski's deft hand as archaeologist and writer, and based on sustained community consultation, the book restores hidden stories that forefront African American and immigrant histories.

Murray E. Jackson University Creative Scholar in the Arts Award

The Murray E. Jackson University Creative Scholar in the Arts award supports a faculty-artist in residence program. This presidential initiative showcases exceptional faculty talent in the traditional performing, creative, and visual arts as well as more non-traditional arts, in pursuit of the university's mission and goals. This annual award was created to honor the memory of Murray E. Jackson, a valued member of the WSU community.

Murray E. Jackson (1926–2002) was a poet, college professor and community and civil rights activist. He was a member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors from 1981 to 2001.

AWARDEE TO BE NAMED AT THE 2023 ACADEMIC RECOGNITION CEREMONY.

Career Development Chairs

Career Development Chairs are awarded to as many as ten recently tenured faculty as part of the university's program to support the teaching and research endeavors of faculty members in the developmental stages of their scholarly careers. Since 1982, 291 university faculty members have held Career Development Chairs.

The Career Development Chairs were established by generous grants to the Wayne State Fund, which provides recipients financial support, encouragement and recognition at a critical time in their careers.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Sara Kacin, Chair

Office of the Provost

Susanne Brummelte

Department of Psychology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Shooshan Danagouliau

Department of Economics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Christina DeNicolò

Division of Teacher Education
College of Education

■ R E C I P I E N T S

KYLE BURGHARDT

Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

In his relatively young career, Dr. Burghardt has established an emerging national reputation in the field of acute induction of insulin resistance by antipsychotic drugs. He is applying novel “omics” approaches to address key questions in this highly translational and multi-disciplinary area of research. He has published 29 first-author, original research publications related to his work; his total publications stand at 46. He currently has an additional three manuscripts under consideration. Dr. Burghardt has brought recognition and prestige to the department through his success with funding (extramural grants totaling nearly \$1 million) and multiple nationally distinguished research recognition awards. His work has benefited not only the department, but WSU, the pharmacy profession, and patient care. Dr. Burghardt’s long-term goal for the award is to identify the impact of molecular factors and mechanisms of medications on the development of diabetes. The objective is to determine the causal relationship between the observed multi-omic changes in response to atypical antipsychotics (AAPs) and the development of insulin resistance.



RECIPIENTS

Career Development Chairs

BILLICIA HINES

Associate Professor, Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

As the faculty that spearheads the Black Theatre and Dance Program, Professor Hines's research has been intrinsically woven into the fabric of her teaching. Her research examines the impact of social categorizations on self-identity, how theatre can be used for personal empowerment, and how performance can create a larger impact by enlightening individuals to better themselves and their communities. Thus, her projects working with students, who are individually exploring self-identity, are utilized for the creation of larger performative pieces to be shared in community settings. These pieces can then inform a secondary level of research that results in publication. She uses performance as a method for exploring and interrogating the African American experience. She has an innovative and impactful program of creative scholarship that explores how social justice is conceived and embodied throughout the African Diaspora. She has a particular interest and expertise in the use of liberatory and anti-racism practices in theatre. Professor Hines plans to research how social justice is conceived and embodied throughout the African Diaspora. The Space of Empowerment Project aims to use liberatory and anti-racism practices with theatre to unearth those necessary ingredients of oneself. This project will connect all of the past projects Professor Hines has collaboratively created with Professor RAS Mikey Courtney.

LIANG HU

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Liang Hu is a well-regarded econometrician whose widely-cited work has focused on identifying systematic changes in processes which involve uncertainty and chance. Professor Hu proposes bringing this considerable econometric expertise to understanding two highly volatile processes: foreign exchange markets and crude oil. She will use the Career Development Chair award to further the understanding of these topics. In particular, Professor Hu will examine the mechanisms by which financial shocks propagate through foreign exchange markets, proposing a model to characterize this process. Furthermore, by examining the oil markets, Professor Hu will provide a real-time outlook for the global oil market in 2023 and beyond and evaluate the role of social and environmental responsibility on these markets in the long run.

JALILA JEFFERSON-BULLOCK

Associate Professor, Law School

Professor Jalila Jefferson-Bullock is one of the leading scholars in this country in examining criminal sentencing of the old and ill and a prominent voice on issues of criminal justice and prison reform. Professor Jefferson-Bullock has produced an impressive array of scholarship during her career. She has published 15 law review articles and book chapters since 2013, in publications including the *Ohio State Law Journal*, the *Tennessee Law Review*, the *Urban Law Journal*, and the *Northwestern University Law Review Online*, among many others. She is the most authoritative expert on the criminal sentencing of the old and infirm and has recently moved into broader discussions about how to reform the American criminal-justice system more generally. She is also known as an outstanding teacher and a leader in both academia and the communities where she has worked. Professor Jefferson-Bullock will use the award to develop a new theory of retribution—one that positions human dignity at the heart of the analysis and might lead to a very different approach than we have taken in America. This topic is strikingly important, and, as her proposal explains, it will likely be the first step in a larger project offering a deep reexamination of American criminal justice.

RAHUL MITRA

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Professor Rahul Mitra's research focuses on the intersection of environmental and organizational communication, specifically in sustainability, environmental organizing, and corporate social responsibility. This vital work has won awards and is already helping to shape the organizational communication field. The Career Development Chair will enable Mitra to prepare a book-length monograph and short documentary on the mass water shutoffs that took place in Detroit between 2014-2020, affecting thousands of low and fixed-income residents, and the community organizers who took on the role of "water warriors" to deliver water to those in need, protest, lobby political leaders, and forge coalitions to end the shutoffs. Mitra's project to identify how grassroots leaders can challenge unjust institutional policies on vital resources will advance the scholarship of organizational communication and benefit his community partners, raising their stature as a national and international model of community organizing for water security.

SHIRIN MONTAZER

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

As a nationally recognized sociologist, Professor Shirin Montazer has developed an impressive body of evidence on the mental and social burden born by families in the United States. Her work describes the impact of gender roles in work and family responsibilities and the mental health consequences of this precarious balance. Funded by the Career Development Chair award, Professor Montazer will bring this considerable expertise to understanding the impact of COVID-19 as a chronic stressor on families. Building on a data collection effort funded by NSF interviewing heterosexual dual-income couples, Professor Montazer will conduct qualitative and quantitative analysis on psychological distress, conflict, and mental health problems among couples in the context of COVID-19. Professor Montazer's work will describe the growing disparity in gender dynamics in parental versus non-parental households in the outcome of COVID-19.

NATALIA RAKHLIN

Associate Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Natalia Rakhlin has proven herself to be a successful and conscientious teacher, an excellent department citizen, and has a robust and internationally recognized research program in child language acquisition and developmental language disorders with excellent accomplishments in theoretical and practical domains of knowledge. Professor Rakhlin focuses in her research on several areas related to child language acquisition and brings a wide variety of interdisciplinary methods to her studies. She investigates the causes of developmental language disorder, a diagnosis made when language skills are below the level expected for a child's age, and there is no known biological or medical condition to account for it. Professor Rakhlin also investigates the role environmental adversity can play in hampering language acquisition, and a third area of research is the acquisition of sentence structure. For the project proposed for the Career Development Chair, Professor Rakhlin will focus on Arabic-speaking community members in metropolitan Detroit. She will study the specific issues of diasporic Arabic speakers in child language acquisition, the manifestation of developmental language disorder (DLD), and Arabic literacy development. She proposes to collect pilot data for an NIH-sponsored R01 grant where children with typical language development and developmental language disorder with Arabic as a heritage language are studied.

JARED SCHRADER

Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Jared Schrader is a well-recognized expert in RNA biology in bacterial cells. His lab uses a variety of techniques, from biochemistry to genomics and cell biology, to better understand the mechanisms of mRNA decay and translation. He has been recognized for the first demonstration of RNP granules in bacteria and has opened up a whole new field of studying these enigmatic structures, which are of great physiological importance. His Career Development Chair project aims to further investigate these bimolecular condensates and assess the significance of each organelle for bacterial survival, which then, in turn, could be used to develop a new generation of antibiotics. Given that antibiotic resistance is a threat to global health, new avenues for antibiotic function are of utmost importance. Professor Schrader's vital research will evaluate which bacterial condensates are essential for cell growth and survival to identify future targets for novel antibiotic drugs.

NAUSHEEN SHAH

Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Nausheen Shah is an internationally recognized scholar and world leader in the area of theoretical particle physics and the study of physics beyond what is known as the Standard Model. Her impactful work aims to discover the basic building blocks of matter and understand the possible connection between Higgs physics and Dark Matter. Her work has been highly cited and advanced the field of high-energy physics. In particular, she is known for her work on the Higgs boson and the possibility that there may be additional Higgs fields in nature beyond the one discovered so far. Professor Shah is one of only three women in the Physics Department, and she has been a role model for her younger colleagues and students. Her Career Development Chair project aims to use a diverse range of topics and techniques, from model building and constructing a mirror dark matter world to collider phenomenology and is poised to reveal new avenues for theoretical research.

HAKAN YILDIZ

**Associate Professor, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management,
Mike Ilitch School of Business**

Professor Hakan Yildiz is a successful supply chain management and logistics researcher who is expanding his research into the intersection of supply chain risk management and sustainability. Building on his substantial scholarship and research on managing pandemic-induced supply chain disruptions, the Career Development Chair will enable him to dedicate the necessary time and resources to conduct global surveys and interviews to investigate how firms manage risks and opportunities associated with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) norms, and how nations are enacting their own ESG-related laws to ensure the protection of the environment and human rights. The research will expand academic knowledge and understanding in an area critical to our modern lives and also has the potential to contribute to practice, benefitting the local business community that MISB serves.

Academic Staff Awards

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes significant service to students, the university, department and/or community organizations, and committee work and/or other service beyond job responsibility.

The Academic Staff Professional Achievement Award is given for demonstrated leadership, significant accomplishments in professional organizations, and presentations and/or publications.

The Outstanding Contributor Award is presented in recognition of significant accomplishments during the previous academic year and emerging leadership among junior academic staff.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Stephanie Hawkes, Chair

Office of Multicultural Student Engagement

LaSondra Dawn

College of Education

Taylor Henning

Walter P. Reuther Library

Geoffrey Jones

School of Social Work

Emily Reetz

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Kimberly Swisher

Mike Ilitch School of Business

■ R E C I P I E N T S

Distinguished Service Award

RICARDO VILLAROSA

Academic Advisor IV, Dean of Students Office

Ricardo Villarosa, Esq. first provided service to the Wayne State University community more than 30 years ago as a student and since 2001, in a variety of professional roles. He joined the Dean of Students Office in January 2014 after serving thirteen years as the Director of Student Life and Educational Outreach for the Law School. From the fall of 2009 until September 2022, Mr. Villarosa served as a member of the AAUP-AFT Executive Board as Grievance Coordinator for academic staff and faculty. A member of the WSU Academic Senate for many years, he was elected to the Senate Policy Committee in 2020. He is also a member of the steering committee of the WSU Provost's Academic Leadership Academy. At the start of the pandemic and after eight years since the previous contract negotiations, Ricardo was the first Academic Staff person and person of color to lead as Chief Negotiator in the 50-year history of AAUP-AFT at WSU. Mr. Villarosa has held a variety of leadership roles beyond the WSU community. He has served on a number of nonprofit governing and advisory boards. He was elected to the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2012. He was a Trustee of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Foundation (DMBF). Mr. Villarosa is also a past president of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Rounding out Ricardo's record of service is his recurring role as captain of the WSU-sponsored Kermit Balloon Team in the annual Thanksgiving Day parade.



RECIPIENTS

Academic Staff Awards

Professional Achievement Award

VANESSA REYNOLDS

University Counselor III, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Vanessa Reynolds is a higher education advocate, community leader, and first-generation college graduate. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, a Master of Education in Educational Leadership, and, most recently, a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Wayne State University (WSU). Her dedication to higher education and passion for student success is reflected in her 19 years of experience as an Admissions Counselor at WSU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Providing educational opportunities to students and contributing to their advancement has been one of her highest objectives. She supports her admissions colleagues as a member of the ESS and Promotion Committee. As the past chair of WSU's Latinx Faculty and Staff Association and various other initiatives across campus, Vanessa has demonstrated her influence to enhance diversity and inclusion across the university. Her efforts have expanded beyond WSU: she is currently serving as a member of the Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling Conference Planning Committee and as co-chair of the board for Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education, a non-profit organization committed to making college education a reality for Latino students across the state. Her commitment to this career is empowered by the encouragement she gives to hundreds of students to pursue higher education and the mission of her alma mater to prepare a diverse student body to thrive.

Outstanding Contributor Award

MAYA CALLOWAY RICHARDSON

Academic Services Officer II, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Maya Calloway Richardson has worked as an academic services officer for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts for the past three years. It is common knowledge that working at Wayne State was always her end game. Maya considers herself fortunate to join a college where her supervisor believes in supporting her professional development, encourages her to engage in opportunities that stretch her thinking, and creates spaces that allow her to sharpen her professional skill set. This philosophy helps her excel in her role and allows her to increase her contributions to the shared goal of positively impacting students while supporting one another. Maya takes full advantage of this mindset by serving on several university committees and joining social justice advocacy groups on campus. Maya wears her love for this work on her sleeve. She is a constant contributor who works well with others across the university and is honored to be recognized for those efforts. She is committed to striving for excellence in student services and engagement. Maya is extremely excited to see how she can further her reach over the next few years as she works toward securing a permanent seat at the higher education table.

General Education Teaching Awards

The General Education Teaching Award recognizes instructors who have demonstrated commitment and excellence in supporting the General Education Program through teaching inside and outside the classroom. The award will be presented to outstanding instructors who demonstrate a commitment to the academic mission of the university through collaboration, innovation, excellence, and inclusion in general education teaching.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Pynthia Caffee

University Advising Center

Anne Duggan

Department of Classical and Modern Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Pramod Khosla

Department of Nutrition and Food Science

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Norma Love-Schropshire

School of Social Work

■ R E C I P I E N T S

JACEK BLASZKIEWICZ

Assistant Professor, Department of Music, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Professor Jacek Blaszkiewicz is an exceptional instructor who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to creating an inclusive and diverse classroom environment that challenges students to think critically and creatively about music. Professor Blaszkiewicz's courses offer a diverse and comparative approach to the study of music that challenges traditional notions of musical superiority and offers a global framework for musical analysis. His course assignments ask students to question their assumptions about music and to engage creatively and provocatively with musical vocabulary and concepts. Professor Blaszkiewicz's commitment to diversity and inclusivity is evident in his course design and teaching practices. He addresses issues of cultural relativism, whitewashing, and colonial implications in music education head-on, and he challenges students to think critically about the relationship between music theory and systems of domination. He creates a safe and welcoming space for all students to engage with music on their own terms and empowers them to make their own intellectual and artistic conclusions. His dedication to empowering students to develop their personal relationship to music as a cultural phenomenon and his commitment to creating an inclusive and diverse classroom environment that challenges students to think critically and creatively about music is a testament to his exceptional teaching ability.



RECIPIENTS

General Education Teaching Awards

YASEMIN GENCER

Part-Time Faculty, Department of Art & Art History, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Teaching a Global Learning course on Islamic Art and Architecture, Yasemin Gencer seeks to bring together course content and skills by helping students learn the nuances of the subject matter while developing core skills that translate to other fields of study and work, and life outside of the classroom. Her excellently designed course achieves these goals through its expansive and inclusive coverage of Islamic art and architecture through time and space and assignments that challenge students to express and apply their knowledge in methodologically sound ways. Ms. Gencer creates an inclusive classroom that is supportive of the needs and concerns of a diverse student body. Each iteration of this course has included a new area of coverage beyond the traditional curriculum focusing on central Islamic lands and the Middle East and North Africa to include a week on Sub-Saharan African architecture, material on Chinese mosque architecture, and content inclusive of modern North and South American mosque architecture, regularly omitted in traditional courses in this field. Ms. Gencer believes that student success involves critical information retention beyond the conclusion of the course and the acquisition and development of skills with useful applications inside and outside the classroom, which she adeptly accomplishes through relevant, creative, and flexible assignments.

GRACE WILLIAMS

**Graduate Teaching Assistant and Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English,
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Grace Williams is an exemplary instructor in composition. She creates safe spaces and clearly delineated assignments that support her students in honing their writing skills. In "Introductory College Writing," students reflect upon their own writing processes because knowledge of themselves as learners and writers will aid them in future endeavors. Ms. Williams ensures that the teaching materials she shares with students meet accessibility requirements, and, importantly, she piloted a revised curriculum that she helped create that was inclusive from the perspective of rhetorical analyses, drawing from rhetorical strategies beyond those in the Greek canon. She selected strategies from the African American Verbal Tradition that dates back to chattel slavery and the fight for civil rights as well as those from Mexicano political discourse styles found in first-generation Mexican American communities. This serves the purpose of broadening for students what effective communication can look like, and the excellent results she saw from this exercise on the part of students exemplified for her the fact that diversity in the classroom is indeed a pedagogical benefit. Ph.D. candidate Grace Williams has effectively supported student learning through collaborative annotation activities and by providing students with models and tools to effectively carry out their writing in a supportive, creative, and inclusive classroom.

Academy of Teachers 2023-24 Inductees

The Academy of Teachers (AoT) is committed to promoting the shared value and culture of teaching excellence and student achievement at Wayne State University. The AoT strive to engage faculty, students, and staff in conversations about learning, and to move from conversations to concrete actions that improve the educational experience for all students. They also work to encourage policies at the university, local, state, and national levels that support teachers and promote and reward effective teaching.

The academy selects up to five new members each year from nominees who have had a significant impact on the WSU undergraduate learning experience, practice innovative pedagogy, and demonstrate instructional excellence.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Jule Wallis-Thomas, Chair

Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Beth Fowler

Irvin D. Reid Honors College

Lauren Kalman

Department of Art & Art History
College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Amy Latawiec

Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

■ NEW MEMBERS

JAIME GOODRICH

Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Jaime Goodrich is an innovative and dedicated instructor in the English Department. She teaches a wide array of courses at the graduate and undergraduate level. At every level of the curriculum, she ties her teaching to practical, theoretical, and service-learning opportunities for her students. Most impressive is Professor Goodrich's mentorship of students, where she connects graduate students as mentors to undergraduate students allowing for the development of pedagogical and professional knowledge that moves beyond the classroom. Additionally, she is active in her department, dedicating her time to service and curriculum development while expanding her service beyond the department. Professor Goodrich's impact on students was recognized by receiving the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. For these reasons, Professor Goodrich deserves to join the Academy of Teachers.

SHANTALEA JOHNS

Assistant Professor (Clinical), School of Social Work

Professor Shantalea John's commitment to teaching excellence is demonstrated in her prior work as an academic service officer and her current role as an assistant professor, where she dedicates her teaching to lower-division undergraduate students using approachable, inclusive, and accommodating pedagogical practices. Her curriculum design is focused on DEI frameworks, where she has worked tirelessly to support faculty in teaching and supporting the unique needs of undergraduate students. At the forefront of her teaching is a dedication to global and intercultural perspectives on social problems and solutions beyond the classroom. Her dedication to teaching was honored by receiving the Wayne State University General Education Teaching Award. Her highly supportive, inclusive, and nurturing teaching within and outside the classroom demonstrates her well-deserved award of the Academy of Teachers membership.



RECIPIENTS

Academy of Teachers 2023-24 Inductees

CHRISTINE KNAPP

Assistant Professor (Teaching), Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Christine Knapp demonstrates teaching innovation at all levels by designing and revising courses that attend to the unique needs of her student and promoting engagement and learning beyond the classroom. An impressive example of her teaching excellence can be seen in her integration of TalkAbroad, a program that pairs students with native Francophone speakers. Beyond increasing their language acquisition, students were also able to develop an appreciation of cultural differences and develop confidence in global settings. Her flexibility in teaching and dedication to student learning was further exemplified by shifting study abroad courses to a virtual experience that supported students' ability to travel abroad in the future. Her teaching excellence can be felt beyond the department through training within the university and through national and international institutes. For these reasons, Professor Knapp deserves to be in the Academy of Teachers.

NORMA LOVE-SCHROPSHIRE

Assistant Professor (Teaching), School of Social Work

Professor Norma Love-Schropshire showcases a deep commitment to students through her knowledge and implementation of instructional design, where she uses evidence-informed practices and infuses her teaching with a pedagogy of kindness, compassion, and inclusion. She supports her diverse students using video feedback, ungradings, and educational technology. Professor Norma continues her development of teaching excellence through continued pedagogical and professional development. She shares her experiences and knowledge with colleagues by providing educational technology training to the School of Social Work. Her excellence in teaching is evidenced by her receiving two teaching awards from the School of Social Work. For these reasons, Professor Norma is a well-deserving inductee into the Academy of Teachers.

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award

The purpose of the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award is to recognize outstanding scholarly activities that have contributed significantly to Wayne State University's graduate programs. Since 1974, 52 graduate faculty members have received the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award.

SELECTED BY THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AWARDS COMMITTEE

■ R E C I P I E N T

MARK BASKARAN

Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Geology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Mark Baskaran is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of Environmental Science and Geochemistry whose scholarship focuses on applications of isotopes as tracers and chronometers in environmental subsystems. He has authored over 160 journal articles, an edited two-volume handbook, and a monograph. His work has generated nearly 10,000 citations and an impressive h-index of 60. He is the recipient of the WSU Board of Governors (BOG) Distinguished Faculty Award and the BOG Faculty Recognition Award and is recognized as a Senior Fulbright Scholar. He was elected into the American Geophysical Union Honors and Recognition Committee and WSU's Academy of Scholars—a lifetime appointment. Professor Baskaran has played an integral part in transforming the Department of Geology into a thriving interdisciplinary Department of Environmental Science and Geology (ESG). His leadership and research acumen have grown ESG to a complement of 10 faculty. Although ESG is the only science department at WSU without a doctoral program, Professor Baskaran has mentored an impressive 15 master's students, the quality of which is evident in the remarkable achievements of his students. For example, over 85% of his mentees have published peer-reviewed articles and conference abstracts. His students have gone on to earn doctoral degrees, enter academia, and establish successful careers in environmental fields. Further, Professor Baskaran has served as a role model and mentor to junior faculty who aspire to guide our graduate and undergraduate students. Professor Baskaran's impact on graduate education at WSU has been far-reaching and remarkable.

Outstanding Graduate Mentor Awards

The Graduate School's Outstanding Mentor Award honors graduate faculty who are recognized by their departments and their graduate students as excellent mentors. The awards were established in 1994 to highlight the importance of faculty's mentoring role.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Tracy Boyce

College of Education

Yasha Butt

Department of Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Yogesh Joshi

Department of Ophthalmology, Visual, and Anatomical Sciences
School of Medicine

Chantel Raymond

Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

■ R E C I P I E N T S

HELEN DURAND

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Material Sciences, College of Engineering

Professor Helen Durand's research at Wayne State University focuses on the development of control designs and theory geared toward solving challenging issues in manufacturing and control. Her work combines mathematics, control theory, and chemical engineering to produce fundamental advances that may be readily applied to solve practical problems. This effort includes creative approaches to mitigating safety and security hazards related to control systems for chemical processes, advancing autonomous operation of the control systems for these processes, and exploring interactions between chemical process control and process system designs. Since joining Wayne State University in 2017, Professor Durand has quickly developed one of the largest research groups in the department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. To date, she has mentored 6 Ph.D. students and 15 undergraduates and is continuing to expand her group. Professor Durand is an extraordinary mentor who sees the potential for greatness in every student. She encourages and inspires each student she collaborates with to do their best work and tirelessly supports their success. Evidence of Professor Durand's high-quality mentorship is clear when interacting with students from her lab, who, in addition to displaying the traditional metrics of success, such as writing conference proceedings and peer-reviewed publications, share the same thoughtful, inquisitive, and fearless approach to the generation of new knowledge.

SARAH LENHOFF

Associate Professor, Division of Administrative & Organizational Studies, College of Education

An integral part of both the Educational Leadership & Policy Studies and Administrative & Organizational Studies programs, Professor Sarah Lenhoff places mentorship at the forefront of her work. Thus far, she has advised five doctoral students to completion, each going on to secure fulfilling opportunities. She is also actively chairing ten doctoral committees and has served as a non-chair committee member for 15 additional graduating doctoral students. Lenhoff has been recognized for her efforts in recruiting and securing funding for graduate students, including mentoring 11 doctoral and four master's students in graduate research assistantships and securing a Competitive Graduate Research Assistant Award from the Graduate School in 2020-21. As a recipient of the College of Education Faculty Service award, it is clear that Sarah Lenhoff cares deeply about fostering an environment of collaboration and enriching the lives of her students. One student noted that "she has taken time to help students find opportunities to sharpen their research skills, present at academic conferences, expand their network of academic colleagues and find funding for graduate travel." This is further made evident by the 11 peer-reviewed publications co-authored with graduate students as well as dozens of presentations and policy reports produced as a result of her dedication to mentorship and collaboration. Sarah Lenhoff has, in short, displayed an exceptional effort toward not only mentorship but to make a profound impact on the lives of her students.

MOH MALEK

Professor, Department of Health Care Sciences, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Since arriving at WSU in 2010, Dr. Moh Malek has mentored, on average, three research groups (i.e., 9 to 12 students) in each cohort of the Doctor in Physical Therapy Program (DPT), Dr. Malek's primary appointment. He is responsible for teaching two courses in the Fall semester and serving as a faculty mentor to DPT students for their research projects. As part of his course curriculum, students write a proposal with their faculty mentors which offers a springboard for pursuing research topics. Malek facilitates the students' research experience by working with the students early in the program. The mentorship model that Dr. Malek uses is very effective and allows students to be completely immersed in the research experience. This style of mentoring has yielded a productive publication record of the students' research appearing in peer-reviewed journals. The Outstanding Research Award honor is presented each year at the Doctor of Physical Therapy graduation ceremony for students who produce scholarly activities. Dr. Malek's group(s) have received this distinction for 11 out of 12 years for the achievement of journal publications. In summary, Dr. Malek's mentorship model has provided first-hand research experience to the DPT students and established a productive research line for Dr. Malek.

ELIZABETH STOYCHEFF

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Professor Elizabeth Stoycheff is an award-winning researcher, teacher, and mentor in the Department of Communication and a strong advocate for graduate education. Graduate students thrive under her mentorship as they achieve important milestones in their programs of study and publish and present research at national and international venues, receive top-paper awards and nationally competitive scholarships, and secure full-time faculty positions upon graduation. Since 2013, Professor Stoycheff has advised ten graduate students through their doctoral or master's degree program and has served on 13 other doctoral and M.A. thesis committees. Professor Stoycheff, an expert in online privacy and government surveillance, also operates a cohesive research team that provides graduate students with outstanding mentorship so they can succeed as academics in their own careers. As one of her students notes, "She never makes a point of turning something into a lesson or exercise, but instead moves effortlessly from teaching to learning to researching. It seems like they are all the same to her." These comments are the mark of a truly student-oriented teacher and mentor. In recognition of her teaching and mentoring excellence, Professor Stoycheff received the 2017 College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts Teaching Award as well as the 2020 Communication Graduate Student Association Mentor Award, an award managed by our graduate students to highlight graduate faculty who have made a difference in the program.

Outstanding Graduate Director Service Award

The Office of the Provost and The Graduate School are pleased to co-sponsor the Outstanding Graduate Director, to highlight the important service by graduate directors in advancing graduate education in their programs.

SELECTED BY THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AWARDS COMMITTEE

■ R E C I P I E N T S

KELLY YOUNG

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts

Professor Kelly Young has been one of the most active graduate advisors in the Department of Communication, having chaired 19 dissertation committees, with service on an additional 17 doctoral committees within and outside the department. In 2019, he agreed to serve as Director of Graduate Studies and has since expertly led the program through one of the most difficult periods in recent history, spending countless hours mentoring faculty on how to best support graduate students and supporting graduate students as they struggled to navigate teaching and/or coursework during a pandemic. He also faced a downturn in enrollment which required out-of-the-box thinking to bring in new students. He has since instituted several changes that supported the program during the pandemic and will continue to influence the program in the years to come. For instance, Professor Young updated many processes and moved them online, which increased communication with present and future graduate students and allowed cohorts to form, even while apart. He also started a regular newsletter, Notes from the Graduate Director, to provide information about the program, professional development activities, job postings, conference deadlines, and funding (along with humorous memes to give readers a smile). Furthermore, Professor Young has taken great strides to increase the racial diversity of graduate students, taking implicit bias training through GEARS to ensure admission policies are fair and transparent. Professor Young has embodied servant leadership throughout his time as graduate director, showing constant concern for the welfare and development of the graduate program and those around him.

Garrett T. Heberlein Endowed Awards for Excellence in Teaching for Graduate Students

The Garrett T. Heberlein Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes graduate students who demonstrate instructional excellence. It is designed in part to elevate the attention given to teaching as part of graduate education and the preparation of graduate students to serve as college and university teachers.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Chantel Raymond

Department of Political Science
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Alexandria Ballard Sims

College of Nursing

Emily Phillips

Occupational Therapy Program
Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

■ R E C I P I E N T S

ALEXANDRA EHRHARDT

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Alexandra Ehrhardt, a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Psychology has accumulated an impressive wealth of teaching experience at Wayne State. From undergraduate Introductory Psychology to graduate-level Multivariate Statistics, she has consistently approached her teaching with great enthusiasm, knowledge, and compassion. Her outstanding student evaluation scores and glowing qualitative student feedback reflect these qualities. Indeed, students testify to her vital role in their educational journeys, for example, noting that "Without her, I would have dropped the class as early as possible, but she encouraged me to stick with it and was there for me every step of the way." She has demonstrated a laudable dedication to professional pedagogical training via numerous Office for Teaching and Learning (OTL) workshops, and she imbues her courses with innovative teaching techniques such as statistical relay races wherein students must work through a multi-step analytic problem as a team. Additionally, she provides extensive mentorship to graduate and undergraduate students in the psychology department, serving as a leader of the Mentoring Undergraduate Students towards Excellence (MUSE) program and in multiple roles within the Psychology Graduate Student Organization. Above all else, as an educator focused on relationship building, she prioritizes the well-being of her students, and she creates a classroom environment where students learn and develop a sense of belonging and confidence. She is, therefore, celebrated for her student-centered pedagogy and teaching excellence.

RECIPIENTS

Garrett T. Heberlein Endowed Awards for Excellence in Teaching for Graduate Students

JAMES MCQUAID

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

James (Jamie) McQuaid, a doctoral student in the Department of History, is an outstanding graduate teacher who combines broad interdisciplinary knowledge and pedagogical skill with a commitment to help students both succeed and thrive. An enthusiastic, compassionate, and engaged educator, Jamie understands that many students have marginalized identities and works to create a nurturing and inclusive classroom environment. Jamie's teaching philosophy speaks to their commitment to help students overcome barriers and to be empowered to learn, a commitment made even more important given current challenges. While Jamie has taught multiple courses for the History Department, they took on an even more ambitious task by designing and teaching a new course on Queer History in the Modern United States, the first such course at Wayne. Teaching this course required immersion in the history and literature of the subject beyond their own research, a testament to Jamie's dedication. Both class observation and student response attest to their success in this endeavor. Jamie has demonstrated rapport with students by being an open and caring presence and skillfully making students feel comfortable speaking in class and beyond the classroom. Both faculty and students recognize in James McQuaid an extraordinary emergent scholar and a capable and inspiring teacher, as witnessed by students of history, economics, labor studies, employment & labor relations, and gender, sexuality, & women's studies. For these reasons, James McQuaid is a deserving recipient of the Garrett T. Heberlein Endowed Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.



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