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 nontraditional 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.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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College of Education

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Allison Guillen
Office of the President

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Graduate Student

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Jim Thomas
Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Jessica Menzel
Department of Biological Sciences

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

EDWARD CACKETT
Associate Professor
Department of Physics and Astronomy
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Edward Cackett is conducting innovative and groundbreaking research in the field of astronomy. The major focus of his research is elucidating the properties of accelerating compact objects, neutron stars and black holes, thereby learning about matter under extreme conditions. He is a world leader on the study of accreting systems and the use of the reverberation mapping technique. Since arriving at Wayne State, he has published 62 papers in refereed journals, with 11 involving post-docs and students in his group. He has received more than $1 million in externally funded research grants, the most important being an NSF CAREER award. Professor Cackett is also an excellent mentor for both graduate and undergraduate students. He played a crucial role in establishing the B.A. program in astronomy in the physics department. His proposal for the Career Development Chair is based on his ongoing research efforts in the department. He intends to study the envelopes of a supermassive black hole system with the Hubble Space Telescope initially. He also plans to study reverberation and reflection in neutron star low-mass X-ray binaries. Finally, he proposes to use two new X-ray satellites that are becoming available in the next year. The proposed work is well-thought-out, enabling excellent opportunities for Professor Cackett and his graduate students to continue with groundbreaking research in the field of astronomy.

RECIPIENT

MICHAEL LIEBLER
Senior Lecturer
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Michael Liebler will use this award to work on his project Howl: A Memoir of Rock, Revolution, and Redemption. This is a creative nonfiction memoir chronicling his lifelong experiences as a Detrotter, poet, recording artist, arts activist and educator. His project will include a completed, downloadalbe recording of his poetry set to music by some of Detroit's finest studio musicians. Mr. Liebler's work is unique in that it crosses artistic boundaries between poetry and music, and will appeal to a broad international audience. His memoir will engage literary arts, working-class life, rock music and his experiences growing up in Detroit amidst the tumult of the 1960s.

AWARD COMMITTEE

John D. Vander Weg, chair
Office of the Provost

Thomas Kohn
Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literature, and Culture
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Karin List
Department of Pharmacology
School of Medicine

Jeff Pruchnic
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Sarah Trimpin
Department of Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RECIPIENT

SIMONE CHESS
Associate Professor
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Simone Chess's research has established her as a significant scholar of early modern gender/sexuality studies and early modern disability studies. She previously published a widely read monograph, Male-to-Female Crossdressing in Early Modern Literature: Gender, Performance, and Queer Relations (Routledge, 2016), a book that powerfully demonstrates that queer gender formations in early modern texts were not simply demonized nor solely a source of cultural anxiety. Through that study, Professor Chess not only investigates Renaissance era crossdressing but also builds connections between that era and important issues in contemporary queer and trans studies and communities. The same emphasis on the ways that early modern texts can speak to present-day concerns drives Professor Chess's next project. The Career Development Chair will support Professor Chess in her completion of a new monograph, Crip, Queer, Early Modern, a study that explores how representations of ability and sexuality intersect in early modern texts. This work will contribute to the ongoing project of historicizing modern theories of identity and of theorizing early modern representations toward the goal of articulating the stakes of a queer and crip premodern disability approach.
RECIPIENTS

ALANA CONTI  
Associate Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery  
School of Medicine  
Professor Conti leads a research program dedicated to the development of new therapeutic strategies that address traumatic brain injury-related alcohol misuse. Her studies have significantly advanced research into alcohol misuse and her findings have prompted a novel direction for the field that offers mechanistic insights into the addictions of alcohol in TBI. Professor Conti has been successful in obtaining funding for her research. She is currently the principal investigator on a VA Merit Review grant and is also supported by the American Heart Association. Dr. Conti has distinguished herself in biomedical education and has mentored high school, undergraduate, graduate and medical students. Many of her trainees have been awarded national and local research fellowships. Professor Conti has provided exemplary contributions to WSU's research and educational efforts. The Career Development Chair award will allow her to collect the data needed to move toward developing treatment options for individuals suffering from TBI-related alcohol misuse.

HENGGUANG LI  
Associate Professor  
Department of Mathematics  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Professor Hengguang Li's research focuses on numerical analysis and scientific computing, including the development of innovative techniques for performing computations across multiple scientific disciplines. More specifically, Professor Li's research has attracted a great amount of interest due to its broad applicability to physics, engineering, finance and several other fields. His techniques have become internationally recognized and used in the design and implementation of new algorithms for approximating solutions with singular solutions. His dissertation research was published by VDM Verlag in 2008 under the title: "Weighted Approach to Elliptic Equations with Singularities: A-Priori Analysis and Numerical Methods." Additionally, he has published more than 25 peer-reviewed papers and raised more than $500,000 to support his research. The Career Development Chair will support Professor Li's current work, which proposes a new family of anisotropic meshes for 3-D polyhedral domains. This work includes planned collaborations at Sun Yat-Sen University (China) and the use of TH-2, one of the fastest supercomputers in the world. This ambitious project will extend many theoretical numerical results in two dimensions to the three-dimensional case that is central to real-life applications.

WEN LI  
Associate Professor  
Department of Chemistry  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Professor Wen Li's research program explores the chemical behavior on low-attosecond time scales and in three dimensions. His imaging technique looks at the time-resolved dynamics of electrons, which play a dominant role in reactions in physics, chemistry and biology. Electron rearrangements are at the core of nearly all chemical reactions but their motions are so fast that they have remained largely invisible to characterization until recently. Professor Li is considered a world leader in the field of ultrafast reaction dynamics. During his time at WSU, he has brought in nearly $4 million in extramural funding. The Career Development Chair will allow him to construct a new electron-electron detector to extend the time-resolved dynamics of motion of electrons in novel materials and further the project of an ultra-high-speed 3-D detector to reconstruct the images of hidden objects. This work will serve as an initial step toward medical and security applications. This award will allow him to assemble a critical proof-of-principle studies, key for obtaining external funding.

ABHITJ MAJUMDER  
Associate Professor  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Professor Abhijit Majumder is one of the top experts in the development of theoretical techniques for understanding the dynamics of high-energy nuclear collisions. He is best known for his innovative and authoritative body of work on jet quenching, and was the first to propose that jet transport coefficients needed for event generators can be calculated from first principles using lattice Quantum Chromodynamics. Professor Majumder's leadership and expertise has been recognized with a major collaborative award from the National Science Foundation under the Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation program. Professor Majumder's plans are threefold: theoretical development, collaboration and deployment, and training and development. Extensive travel and time dedicated to training and research are necessary to carry out this rather ambitious collaborative project, along with the management of the JETScape collaboration. Professor Majumder plans to use his Career Development Chair to keep WSU at the top of the field, continuing to carry out research into the modification at the highest level, along with successfully competing for the large center funding solicitations that will become available in the near future.

RECIPIENTS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHAIRS RECIPIENTS CONTINUED

SOKOL TODI  
Associate Professor  
Department of Pharmacology  
School of Medicine  
Professor Sokol Todi has done outstanding work in the field of protein ubiquitination. The major focus of his research are deubiquitases, the enzymes that reverse ubiquitination, and their role in human neurodegenerative disorders. He has published 16 research papers in this area of research in major journals such as Human Molecular Genetics, Nature Communications and Journal of Biological Chemistry; in addition, he has written several book chapters and scholarly reviews. Most notable of these is his review of the role of deubiquitinating enzymes in the central nervous system that was published in Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience in 2014. In his time at WSU, Professor Todi has proven to not only be an excellent researcher but also an outstanding mentor. Both graduate and undergraduate students have conducted research under his supervision. He has also been able to secure funding from NIH to support the research in his laboratory. The Career Development Chair Award will allow Professor Todi to investigate the role of ataxin-3-VPX interaction for therapy in the neurodegenerative disease Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 3. The proposed work builds upon his established expertise with growth into a new area that is highly likely to be funded by the NIH.

AWARD COMMITTEE

Dennis Beste  
College of Nursing  
Jennifer Bondy  
University Libraries  
Diane Fear  
Law School  
Avanti Herczeg  
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts  

RECIPIENTS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

KRISTEN CHINERY  
Kristen Chinery is an Archivist IV at the Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, where she manages manuscript reference services. She received a M.A. in history, MLS, and an archival administration certificate from Wayne State University, and a B.A. in history from Adrian College. Ms. Chinery chairs Wayne State's AUAP-20 Council and sits on a number of university committees. Professionally, she serves as co-chair of the Regional Archival Associations Consortium and chairs RAC's Grant Development Committee. Ms. Chinery's research activity includes women's labor history and industrial organizational psychology as it relates to archivists. She is currently the principal investigator for a study about the effects of stress on the working conditions of archivists.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JUANITA PIPKIN  
Juanita Pipkin is an Academic Services Officer IV in APEX Scholars. She holds the master of arts in student personnel services from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. Ms. Pipkin has achieved Level II Advising Certification.