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 (1936–2002) was a poet, college professor and community and civil rights activist. He was a member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors from 1991 to 2001.

RECIPIENT

JUDITH MOLDENHAUER | Professor, Department of Art and Art History College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Judith Moldenauer, Professor of Art and Art History, is the 2018-19 Murray Jackson University Creative Scholar in the Arts Award recipient. Professor Moldenauer will restore historic letterpresses owned by the Department of Art and Art History. These presses have been out of use and in disrepair for decades. Following restoration of the letterpresses, Professor Moldenauer will use the renovated equipment to print a series of folios, posters, and wood engravings.

The industrial nature of the letterpress fits well with the history and traditions of Detroit, and this project is especially timely given the resurgence of interest in this art form across the country. Professor Moldenauer has included a number of opportunities to engage students and the campus community in the restoration process, adding a much-needed impact component to the work she will undertake.

The letterpresses will be used not only to educate students but also to enhance the print culture on campus; even more so, these unique letterpresses will be an attracting force for creative artists across the globe, who will have the opportunity to apply for access to this historical equipment. Her project will benefit a cross-disciplinary group of individuals on campus and beyond, from graphic design students to poets and other artists.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHAIRS

Career Development Chairs are awarded to as many as seven 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, 245 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

Ellen Barton, Chair Office of the Provost

Simone Choes Department of English College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Wen Li Department of Chemistry College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Seok Todi Department of Pharmacology School of Medicine

RECIPIENTS

SARAH BROWNLEE | Associate Professor, Department of Geology College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Sarah Brownlee is becoming well-known for her work on the structure and composition of the Earth’s crust and how it came to be. Her research crosses boundaries among several disciplines within geology, including mineralogy, geochemistry and tectonics. Few scientists at her career stage have mastery in these disparate areas. Since beginning at Wayne State, Dr. Brownlee has published 10 papers, secured a prestigious five-year CAREER NSF grant, served as an associate editor of the important journal American Mineralogist, and given keynote addresses at international and national conferences. Her cutting-edge research makes use of modern techniques, integrating information from small-scale analytical techniques (e.g. Electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD)) with larger-scale seismic imaging of the crust. The Career Development Chair Award will allow her to collect and analyze preliminary data for a project characterizing the structure of the Salinian continental arc in central coastal California, using modeling software to study deformation of lower crust rocks. Both studies will enable her to seek extramural funding with the National Science Foundation (NSF). Professor Brownlee’s record suggests that there is the promise of high-impact, high-quality scientific contributions in her future.

STANISLAV GROYSMAN | Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Stanislav Groyzman’s research focuses on the development of homogeneous catalysts for renewable energy applications, such as the formation of value-added small molecules from waste carbon dioxide or for O-O bond formation. During the past six years at Wayne State, he has published more than 20 papers in top journals and received two external grants, including a prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER award. He has established a leading research group on the chemistry of transition metal complexes bearing primarily alkoxide ligands. For the Career Development Chair Award, he would like to initiate a new research project, which aims to design new catalysts for copolymerization of carbon dioxide with epoxides, which is one of the most attractive applications of carbon dioxide. In summary, Professor Groyzman is an outstanding scientist and well-respected in the field of coordination chemistry. He is highly deserving of the WSU Career Development Chair Award.

TRACY NEUMANN | Associate Professor, Department of History College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Tracy Neumann is a historian with a specialization in urban and post-industrial studies. Her first book, Remaking the Rust Belt: The Post-Industrial Transformation of North America (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), examines the costs and limits of privatization in the steel-town cities of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Hamilton, Ontario. Remaking the Rust Belt was supported by the William Lyon Mackenzie King Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University in 2015-2016, and was recognized with the Wayne State University Board of Governors Award in 2017. The Career Development Chair will support Professor Neumann in the completion of a new monograph, The Urban International: From the Marshall Plan to Microfinance, a political, cultural, and intellectual history of urban design and International development, focusing on the transfer and exchange of development ideas between the Global North and the Global South since 1945. The Urban International will examine the influence of North American urban design and management in development projects in the global South. Professor Neumann argues that development projects in the global South and urban revitalization projects in the North Atlantic were a conduit through which neoliberal ideas moved internationally between cities. The book promises to be an important contribution to the field of transnational urban history.
CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHAIRS

RECIPIENTS

ERANDA NIKOLLA | Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering College of Engineering
Professor Eranda Nikolka's research is centered on the development of new catalytic and electrocatalytic materials and processes for energy conversion and storage. She is at the vanguard of researchers who are aiming to transform catalytic development from what has traditionally been a trial-and-error process to one guided by theoretical and experimental understanding of reaction pathways at the molecular level. During her time at Wayne State University, she has published widely in top journals. She has received three prestigious and highly competitive awards: the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award, the Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Award and the Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award. With the Career Development Chair Award, she plans to further expand her research portfolio. Her proposed project focuses on engineering ion-conducting membrane reactors for the oxidative coupling of methane, which is a new and high-risk high-reward research direction. With her outstanding track record of research productivity, Professor Nikolka is poised to make significant contributions to her field and to Wayne State.

IZABELA PODGORSKI | Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology School of Medicine
Professor Izabela Podgorski is an exceptional cancer biologist whose work has provided critical clues into the ways that prostate cancer cells invade other tissues to metastasize and devour the body. Her primary focus is the hospitable environment of the aging bone for prostate cancer cells, and the manner in which cancer cells and fat cells in the bone communicate with each other with devastating outcomes. This type of research, ground-breaking and novel for the cancer field and beyond, has identified molecular targets and cellular mechanisms that have helped the field to understand prostate cancer biology and to devise therapeutic options for this malady. Her outstanding work, amply supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, has unfolded over a series of publications in prestigious journals, and has been showcased in numerous venues around the world where Dr. Podgorski has been an invited speaker. The work that she proposes to conduct for the Career Development Chair Award will undoubtedly further the significance of her findings, reaching ever closer to the therapy for prostate cancer.

JOERN PUTSCHKE | Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Professor Joern Puttschke is an outstanding physicist, internationally recognized as a leader in his field of experimental nuclear physics. Tenured in 2016, Dr. Puttschke has established a vibrant and exceptional research program in nuclear theory, focusing on the nature of quark-gluon plasma (QGP) which has real day-to-day implications for energy use in our world. The focus of his research is to study the hottest and densest matter ever created by the laboratory, the QGP, at various length scales, utilizing highly energetic particle (jets) produced in the very early stages of a collision. This provides a further-first hand measurement of the microscopic properties of the QGP. This work will continue through the funds and time afforded by the Career Development Chair Award. Professor Puttschke is also recognized as an excellent teacher and mentor. As highlighted by one of the external reviewers who supported Dr. Puttschke with great enthusiasm: “He is highly deserving of the recognition and support attached to the WSU Career Development Chair, and I think receiving it would both benefit his career in concrete ways and promote WSU’s already recognized role in high-energy nuclear physics research.”

JOSHUA WILBURN | Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Professor Joshua Wilburn is a specialist in ancient philosophy, with expertise in Plato; he is especially recognized for his work on Plato's Laws and Plato's views on moral philosophy. Already a leading scholar in these fields, Professor Wilburn will use the Career Development Chair to complete an exciting monograph entitled The Political Soul: Plato on Thumos, Spiritual Motivation, and the City. The book argues that Plato's views on the 'spiritual' part of the soul—thumos—are a foundational basis for his ethical, social, and political theories. Where thumos has been understood as the social or political part of the human soul, Professor Wilburn demonstrates that Plato also understands it to be the part of the soul responsible for affection, love, and friendship. Thumos is therefore a cornerstone for human relationships and community, and, by extension, is at the core of Plato's approaches to politics and morality, by considering Plato's views on human psychology alongside and together with his ethical and political ideas, Professor Wilburn is doing innovative and original work; his book will be a valuable and distinctive contribution not only to the field of philosophy, but also to political theory, Greek literature, and history.

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

AWARD COMMITTEE

Jennifer Bondy | University Libraries
Dr. Bondy is currently the Dean of Libraries at Wayne State University. Her work has focused on improving access to research materials and fostering collaboration between libraries and other academic departments.

Shanta Johns | College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts
Shanta Johns is an Associate Professor of Dance at Wayne State University. She has been named Emerging Leader by the Global Community for Academic Advisors (NCACAD). She has been recognized for her contributions to the field of dance education and has been awarded several grants and fellowships to support her research.

Rachel Pawlowski | College of Education
Rachel Pawlowski is an Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at Wayne State University. She has received several awards for her research on educational technology and has been involved in the development of mobile learning applications.

RECIPIENTS

KENYA SWANSON | Distinguished Service Award
Kenya Swanson has been a lifelong learner at Wayne State University since 1991, having completed a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Education and Counseling. Wayne State has been a part of her life for over 26 years, and she is proud to call co-workers across campus family. Ms. Swanson has been fortunate in the opportunities that have presented themselves over the years, allowing her to learn and grow in her profession. She has enjoyed time working with exploratory, pre-professional, and veteran students. The relationships she has built over the years have helped her put together a network of support for her new role as the Program Manager for the Warrior Vision and Impact Program. Better known as Warrior VIP, Ms. Swanson feels that all of her experiences thus far at Wayne State, working with a broad section of our most promising students has prepared her for this important role, and she looks forward to what the future will bring during this exciting time on campus.

Shanta Johns is an Academic Services Officer III in the WSU School of Social Work. In 2016, she was named Emerging Leader by the Global Community for Academic Advisors (NCACAD). She was one of 10 leaders chosen (first ever from WSU) from an international pool of applicants. Since joining WSU in 2012, Ms. Johns has presented 25 times on best practices in academic advising to national and international audiences at academic conferences and workshops. In 2018, she was appointed co-chair of the NCACAD Region 5 conference where she will provide leadership to a team of advisors and advising administrators who will plan the 2019 conference to be held in Detroit. The NCACAD Region 5 conference provides a quality professional development opportunity for over 500 advisors, faculty advisors, administrators, and students who are involved in helping students achieve academic success.

Ms. Johns also serves on the NCACAD research committee and the probation/interim group steering committee. She also serves as the co-chair of the School of Social Work's social entrepreneurship committee and is a member of nine other committees across campus. Ms. Johns is currently a second-year doctoral student in the College of Education. Her research seeks to understand the impact of mental health on student persistence and retention.

RACHEL PAWLOWSKI | Outstanding Contributor Award
Rachel Pawlowski has been working in the field of Academic Advising for nearly a decade and is passionate about student success. She earned both a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Educational Specialist in Leadership at Wayne State University. She has been working in the Office of Student Research at WSU since 2012 and feels as though she has found a place where she can make a difference, not only in student's academic careers but also in their daily lives. She believes in a proactive advising approach and works diligently to create programming for all levels of Honors College students to help them progress seamlessly from first-year students to college graduates. Ms. Pawlowski has chosen to find ways to get involved not only in the WSU community but in the Academic Advising community as a whole. Currently she serves as a Member-at-Large for the WSU Academic Senate, is the Chair of the Membership and Nominations Committee for the WSU Academic Advising Council (AAC), and is the Past-President of the Michigan Academic Advising Association (MACADA). She will continue to be a strong advocate for students and academic advisors.