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 (1936–2003) 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

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 Moldenhauer 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 gifts 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 Chess
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Wen Li
Department of Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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

Selcuk Todic
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, geophysics, 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 2016-2018, 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.