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 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.

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Graduate Stunt
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

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

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 Dog: A Memoir of Rock, Revolution, and Redemption." This is a creative nonfiction memoir chronicling his lifelong experiences as a Detroit poet, recording artist, art activist and educator. His project will include a completed, downloadable 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.

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, 238 university faculty members have held Career Development Chairs.

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

AWARD COMMITTEE

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Sarah Trimpay
Department of Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RECIPIENTS

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, neutrons 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 RA 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 ensembles 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.

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 well-received 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 this 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.