



WAYNE UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION WEEK



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ACADEMIC RECOGNITION WEEK



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PROGRAM

President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships

Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

Distinguished Service Professors

Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Awards

Murray E. Jackson University Creative Scholar in the Arts Award

Career Development Chairs

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award

Outstanding Graduate Mentor Awards

Outstanding Graduate Director Service Awards

Garrett T. Heberlein Endowed Awards for Excellence in Teaching

AWARD COMMITTEE

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President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

The President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching recognize faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to teaching. This year, there are ten awards. Since 1977, 288 Wayne State University faculty members have been recognized for their teaching with these awards.



RECIPIENTS

President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

DOUGLAS BIANCHI

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

Anyone who has attended a university new student orientation assembly, a fall or winter graduation or the inauguration of a university president knows the work of Professor Douglas Bianchi. As director of the WSU Wind Symphony, Bianchi's work has been on display at most of the university's major events, including its sesquicentennial celebrations since August 1997. As director of three of the major performance ensembles and conducting classes, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, Bianchi's work as an educator is intimately bound with active music-making with our students. In both rehearsals and classes, Bianchi shows a level of sophistication, intensity, and merit in his teaching. He is a tremendous asset to the Department of Music as a professor, musician, and person. He is respected and admired by staff and students alike for his level of excellence and commitment to the profession. His experience in the musical arts is unrivaled and proves to be a significant influence within the music community.

SUZANNE BROWN

Associate Professor
School of Social Work

Professor Suzanne Brown is respected as an exemplary social worker, teacher, mentor, and leader. She has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to teaching and training social work students, faculty, and the community at large. She approaches her teaching with genuineness, passion, and creativity, accompanied by a highly effective approach to transferring knowledge and insights into practical experience. During the start of the pandemic, an especially stressful and tumultuous time, she dedicated a great deal of her time, skills, and resources to spearheading the development of a Crisis Hotline for Health Care Workers in Metro Detroit. As a result, she was one of four deserving recipients of Wayne State's Warrior Unsung Hero Award. Moreover, as a leader in social work education and curriculum change at the national level, she contributed to the development of a trauma-informed curriculum titled Specialized Practice Curricular Guide for Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice as an active committee member for the Council on Social Work Education, the national association representing social work education in the United States. She clearly epitomizes the spirit of this Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.



KELLY DONNELLAN

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

Professor Kelly Donnellan is a passionate and innovative educator and utilizes a variety of instructional methods for the effective learning of her students. Her classes are very demanding and require a great deal of technological knowledge and the ability to communicate that knowledge to/with students so they can acquire fundamental skills in editing, field production, and camera operation. She instills in her students a dedication to the rigor of the profession and an excitement for learning, as she encourages them to push traditional boundaries of the discipline. In this unprecedented year of the pandemic, Donnellan has been a model of compassion, resilience, and rigor, teaching her students to pivot in an ever-changing instructional and production environment as she successfully and safely guided her students through their production and course requirements. Her devotion and care for students, passion for her craft, and skill as a classroom instructor have inspired students to not only complete her courses but excel outside the classroom as they compete for jobs and internships and take their projects to festivals.

BETH FOWLER

Senior Lecturer
Irvin D. Reid Honors College

Dr. Beth Fowler has been a Senior Lecturer in the Irvin D. Reid Honors College since 2014. She is known for her creative classroom approaches, her considerable generosity of spirit, and her seemingly boundless positive energy in service to her students. She builds strong relationships that frequently endure long after the course has ended, often serving as the faculty mentor for undergraduate research. Fowler is an enthusiastic professor who engages with students and encourages deeper analysis of the material, especially outside the classroom. Fowler incorporated local field trips paired with lessons to give her students a real-world look at what they were learning from their lessons. She truly wants her students to make connections with what they are learning and, as such, shows them resources they can take advantage of in the real world. Her career has been one of excellence and prominence in teaching and service, and she represents the best that Wayne State can offer.



RECIPIENTS

President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

SANDRA GONZALES

Associate Professor
Division of Teacher Education
College of Education

Professor Sandra Gonzales' pedagogical style flips the traditional model of 'teacher as expert' by positioning curriculum in ways that allow students to explore and draw from their own cultural experiences and modes of knowing. Her classroom design draws from Indigenous Mexican ontologies, which encourage relationality, dialogue, and community building. Students noted a strong sense of belonging and inclusivity in her classroom. They also referenced her ability to model authenticity and caring while uplifting student voice. Gonzales is nationally recognized for her expertise in how Latinx children and families experience school and schooling. It is from this background that she creates culturally sustaining learning environments that make her classes unique. There is a high return on Gonzales' teaching style as she primarily trains future K-12 educators, and they, in turn, take this pedagogical style into their work, creating safe, inclusive classrooms for their own students that honor and celebrate culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The impact of Gonzales's teaching both at WSU and in the community fully embodies the definition of a teacher that deserves the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

CAROLYN HARRIS

Assistant Professor
Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences
College of Engineering

The central tenet of Dr. Carolyn Harris' teaching is that learning should be inspired, which in turn leads to excitement and drive for deep learning among her students. Her teaching strategy is based on mentorship, motivation, and building a strong foundation for her students in STEM-related careers. In her BE1200 course for first-year engineering undergraduates, Harris fosters excitement for brainstorming, solving problems, and providing tools for growth. In her upper-class teachings, she emphasizes the foundational skills and real-world examples that will be the backbone for application-driven work. Irrespective of the class level, though, her students learn the importance of independent deep thinking and team-based learning for future professional success. Finally, Harris believes in inspiring students by showing them that a strong work ethic, passion, perseverance, and real-world problem solving can lead to reaching one's end goals despite challenges.



JENNIFER HART

Associate Professor
Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Throughout her years at Wayne State University, Dr. Jennifer Hart has consistently demonstrated herself to be a passionate, committed, and gifted educator to her students and a dedicated leader to her fellow faculty. To support thoughtful, cutting-edge teaching and high-quality learning, she developed the General Education Teaching Award and has chaired the Breadth Subcommittee of the General Education Reform Committee and the Academic Senate's Curriculum & Instruction Committee. She embodies Wayne State University's mission by incorporating a diverse, inclusive and innovative approach to teaching and scholarship. She continually demonstrates a philosophy of compassionate teaching to foster growth among her students. Her commitment to enhancing pedagogy at Wayne State University is embodied by her nominated membership in the Wayne State Academy of Teachers and as the elected North American President for the International Society for the Scholarship on Teaching & Learning in History. Due to her ongoing efforts as a leader in education, Hart is clearly deserving of this award.

DONOVAN HOHN

Associate Professor
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Donovan Hohn is an outstanding teacher and has reinvigorated the creative writing curriculum at WSU, infusing his teaching with expertise brought from his writing and editing careers. He is also an exceptional journalist and brilliant stylist and has been a working editor. Through a balance of encouraging students' experimentation and introducing them to masterful writers with an emphasis on their craft, he fosters the development of sustainable and robust creative practice. He provides detailed, encouraging, insightful feedback on students' individual assignments; his care and attention to designing courses, his support of students, and his ambition to help bring out the best in every student he works with are steady and invaluable. His students praised Hohn as a transformative and life-altering teacher who often provided deeply engaged and valuable feedback. He has the unique ability to inspire students to reach for the height of craft, and at the same time, give them the tools and the resources they need to find a home for their work in the world. His teaching is not limited to the four walls of a college classroom; it ignites his students' future careers.



R E C I P I E N T S

President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

RICHARD PINEAU

Senior Lecturer

Department of Mathematics

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dr. Richard Pineau is a former WSU student and Math Corps coordinator, and he brings these experiences every day to his classroom. Perhaps the single most important denominator in his pedagogical approach is that he genuinely cares about his students. In his remedial courses, where mastering the material is essential for future success, he had instituted the "Success Policy." This policy is built right in the syllabus, requiring students who score below 80% on any quiz or exam to come to the office hours and seek help at the department tutoring center. If they do not do this, Pineau holds all future assignments and assessments until they do. While seemingly simple, this approach puts students at the forefront of their own success. Furthermore, Pineau treats each lecture as a dialogue, a conversation of sorts, versus a formal delivery of material. In the words of one of his students, "[He] works to ensure his students' success is met. Our success is a measure of his. [He] exemplifies all the qualities of a teacher who has achieved excellence in teaching at Wayne State University, and I cannot recommend him more for this award."

LAUREL WHALEN

Lecturer

Division of Kinesiology, Health & Sports Studies

College of Education

Dr. Laurel Whalen is well known for her excellence in engaging online learners in creative and challenging ways. Her passion for teaching extends beyond the classroom into sports venues across the city, where she mentors students and exposes them to real world experiences in their future careers in the world of sports, as well as the countless hours she spends advising and providing career counseling to students. Whalen is recognized and appreciated by students for the various options she provides them to demonstrate competence in the skills she is teaching and her creative and innovative approach to teaching. Rather than subscribing to the "one size fits all" pedagogical and assessment techniques, she incorporates unique and creative software that integrates whether students are using phones, tablets, or computers. Students in her classes have choices between multiple assessments to demonstrate competence. Whalen's commitment to student learning and innovation is well respected by both her students and peers, all of whom would concur that she is extremely deserving of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

Mark Lumley

Department of Psychology
College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

Jazlin Ebenezer

Division of Teacher Education
College of Education

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Awards Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Awards

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, 90 Charles H. Gershenson Fellowships and 92 Board of Governors Fellowships have been awarded.



R E C I P I E N T S

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Awards
Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Awards

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowships

FEI CHEN

Professor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Dr. Fei Chen's work in the areas of lung disease and cancer has resulted in two important discoveries: a gene that is critically important to the development of inflammation-related lung disease and the discovery of cancer-like stem cells that result in resistance to cancer treatments. These discoveries have earned him an internationally recognized reputation, and his revolutionary work is likely to have a huge impact in increasing the health and longevity of human life. Additionally, Chen is currently the principal investigator for three NIH grants totaling more than \$10 million. While this funding is essential to his work, it also provides him with the opportunity to mentor students at all levels from undergraduate through post-doctoral work, thus creating future generations of scientists. It is clear that Chen is a true scholar committed to developing future scholars. Wayne State University celebrates his accomplishments and is proud to present him with the Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Award.

SAMIRAN GHOSH

Associate Professor

Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics

Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences

School of Medicine

Professor Samiran Ghosh has made substantial contributions in the field of biostatistics. He is the founding Director of Wayne State's Biostatistics in the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design core of the Translational Science and Clinical Research Program. As a biostatistician, Ghosh's expertise is highly prized by researchers across the university. He is a co-investigator on many grants and has published extensively with many colleagues. In addition, Ghosh has his own independent line of scholarship focused on developing statistical models for adaptive interventions and clinical trials and methods to conduct high-dimensional robust data analysis. Ghosh has served on numerous NIH grant panels and is an Associate Editor of several journals. He also has been a dedicated mentor to post-doctoral fellows and academic advisor to numerous students in the Master's in Public Health program. Ghosh will use the fellowship to pursue better methods for modeling and analyzing high-dimensional data in the presence of outlying scores.



ROGER PIQUE-REGI

Associate Professor

Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
School of Medicine

Professor Roger Pique-Regi is a nationally and internationally acknowledged scientist and thought leader in cutting-edge research fields of Computational and Statistical Genomics and Genetics. He is recognized worldwide for his tool, CENTIPEDE, which analyzes DNASE I-Seq and ATAC-Seq data to predict genome-wide transcription factor binding. Pique-Regi is an awardee of various NIH and NSF grants, and he serves as a reviewer in these national granting agencies. He has published numerous articles in high-impact life science journals, which boasts more than 4500 citations. He is on the editorial board of several journals. He has mentored several students at various levels at WSU. Scholars who he has prepared are currently researchers in industry and academia. Thus, Pique-Regi is a recipient of the recent Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award and the School of Medicine's Teaching Award. With the Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, he proposes to inquire into the genetic and epigenetic determinants of COVID-19 and its similarities and differences with other infections such as influenza.

Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

SERGEI VOLOSHIN

Professor

Department of Physics & Astronomy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Sergei Voloshin is an internationally respected intellectual pioneer in experimental high-energy nuclear physics. For many years, he has been the leader of the highly regarded nuclear physics group at Wayne State University. He is WSU's most internationally visible and most-cited scholar. In 2008, he was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society "for numerous seminal contributions to the methods and interpretation of collective flow in relativistic nuclear collisions." His research focuses on ways to model and probe interactions of two fundamental subatomic particles: quarks (fundamental chunks of matter) and gluons, which "glue" quarks together to form protons, neutrons, and other particles. Voloshin has been a leading member of several experimental collaborations at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, and the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, where researchers smash atomic nuclei at high energy to recreate conditions present at the beginning of our universe during the Big Bang. The funds provided by the fellowship will support Voloshin and his students in their research associated with the Electron Ion Collider currently being designed at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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Office of the Provost

renée hoogland

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College of Liberal Arts and
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Howard Matthew

Department of Chemical
Engineering
College of Engineering

William Volz

Department of Accounting
Mike Ilitch School of Business

Distinguished Service Professors

The President is authorized to create a new faculty classification of Distinguished Service Professor. This classification is to be used in rare instances to designate senior members of the University faculty who have made extraordinary contributions to the University outside their own disciplines or who, by unusual service outside of the University, have brought great honor and recognition to this institution.



JOHN MOGK

Law School

Professor John Mogk is well known amongst the Detroit-area planning and architectural community as the go-to source for all things related to land use law. His grassroots work in Detroit's Jefferson-Chalmers community, a neighborhood as old as the auto industry beside which it was built, helped provide a vibrant and nurturing environment for societal empowerment. The community council he helped reinvigorate was a precursor to the formal Citizens' District Council sanctioned through the city elections department and supported with federal community development block grant funds. Mogk was responsible for saving and improving much of this vulnerable neighborhood's housing stock and giving local residents a crucial voice in the allocation of resources. Throughout all of this, Mogk has been an exemplary scholar and teacher, carrying a full course load, using his activities on behalf of the public interest to inform his teaching and scholarly work. He is exceptionally deserving to be recognized as a Distinguished Service Professor.

MICHELE RONNICK

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

Professor Michele Valerie Ronnick is highly deserving of the Distinguished Service Professor title for her published scholarship on the African-American classicist William Sanders Scarborough (1852-1926), her influence in the field of Classical Studies to bring greater formal recognition to the contributions of Black classicists, and the extensive visibility and community impact of her public history project, "12 [later 14] Black Classicists," a collection of photos and documents that has been touring the United States for almost twenty years. Numerous communities and institutions have already honored her service to academia and the public in light of her work on Scarborough and Black American intellectual culture. Her work highlighting the accomplishments of Black classicists has inspired high-school and college students, especially but not exclusively students of Black heritage, to pursue the study of Latin and Greek. Ronnick has been a pioneer in the field of Classics for her research on the history and reception of classical scholarship among African Americans and for her service to the field and the larger academic community for bringing recognition to the work of early African American classicists and educators.



R E C I P I E N T S

Distinguished Service Professors

ANDREA SANKAR

Department of Anthropology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Over more than three decades, Dr. Andrea Sankar has drawn on the methods and insights of Anthropology to make a positive social impact beyond the academy. From her 1990s NIH-funded HIV/AIDS research on caregiving and therapy adherence in the African American community to her more recent research on the health effects of eating fish from the Detroit River, her scholarship has consistently been geared toward practical outcomes that benefit the broader public. In 2013, she collaborated with Arlene Weisz, School of Social Work, to create the Ph.D. in Social Work and Anthropology (or SWAN); in 2015, she helped develop the NSF-funded T-RUST urban sustainability program to train Ph. D. students for non-academic positions. Sankar has made critical contributions to society through excellence in interdisciplinary and translational scholarship on pressing issues, innovative leadership within the university to produce highly accomplished practitioner-scholars, and embedded inquiry benefiting a variety of communities of place and identity, among other accomplishments. In short, Sankar's career is one of illustrious service to the university, to communities of place, identity, and practice; and to society at large.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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

Jennifer Hart

Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences

Chera Kee

Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences

Kypros Markou

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

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 2021 are based on accomplishments in 2019-2020. The work of merit is a single act or event that constituted an outstanding contribution to scholarship and learning. Since 1975, 223 faculty members have received this award.



R E C I P I E N T S

Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Awards

NATALIE BAKOPOULOS

Assistant Professor
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Natalie Bakopoulos for the publication of *Scorpionfish* (Tin House Press, July 2020). In her second novel, *Scorpionfish*, Bakopoulos crafts a complex portrait of a burgeoning relationship set against the backdrop of personal and political crises. Exploring how ordinary people grapple with the challenges of their own lives alongside broader political and social challenges in the wider world, *Scorpionfish* deftly melds the deeply personal with the political to create a book that explores grief, love, and identity in the contemporary world. Not only has her novel met high acclaim, but Bakopoulos works hard to integrate the skills that make her such a talented novelist into her classroom practice. She has translated her experiences of writing pieces such as *Scorpionfish* into her courses in the Creative Writing program in the English Department to the direct benefit of our students. The Board of Governors is pleased to recognize Bakopoulos for her contributions to Wayne State University and the Department of English.

SUSAN DAVIS

Professor (Clinical)
Department of Pharmacy Practice
Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Susan Davis for her work on the National Institute of Health's COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel led by Dr. Anthony Fauci. The COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel was charged with the urgent task of providing up-to-date information to clinicians about the treatment of patients with COVID-19. Because of the pandemic's rapidly changing nature, the full set of guidelines is a living document that continually incorporates the latest evidence-based treatment options for clinicians on the front line. One of only six pharmacists selected to serve on the panel, this position is a recognition of her national leadership and expertise in the field of Infectious Disease Pharmacy. Her role as an author and panel member of these important national guidelines has not only contributed to the health and well-being of all Americans but also has changed the way that healthcare providers view pharmacists. The Board of Governors is pleased to recognize Davis for her contributions to Wayne State University and the Department of Pharmacy Practice.



DONOVAN HOHN

Associate Professor
Department of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Donovan Hohn for his volume of creative nonfiction, *The Inner Coast* (2020), a reference to the Midwestern “coast” of the Great Lakes region and inner geographies. The essays explore the interlocking questions of memory and place, moving between interior and exterior landscapes in a reflective, trenchant, and eloquent voice. Combining journalism and its commitment to facts with tools of fiction writing that allow for a greater range of emotional and literary expression, the essays constituting *The Inner Coast* are grounded in a profound sense of place to ponder the connections of ever-increasing complexity between literature, science, history, and geography. Lyricism and mediation on the natural world in Hohn’s work serve to illuminate what is most enduringly human about the narrator. As a group, Hohn’s essays are engaging, thoughtful, and marked by his sparkling wit and boundless curiosity. The Board of Governors is pleased to recognize Hohn for his contributions to Wayne State University and the Department of English.

KAREN MARRERO

Associate Professor
Department of History
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Karen Marrero for her book *Detroit's Hidden Channels: The Power of French-Indigenous Families in the Eighteenth Century* (University of Manitoba Press; April 2020). This book offers a meticulous and sophisticated analysis of Detroit’s founding era, a moment when English, French, and Indigenous groups fought, bargained and ultimately settled side by side as Detroit transformed from a small military station to an increasingly important border city with bustling economic activity and vital military importance. Using sources in multiple languages and examining the participation of diverse groups in eighteenth-century Detroit borderlands, Marrero brings to life the multi-layered, multi-racial networks that built this imperial outpost and places women and Indigenous peoples – often seen as marginal – at the center of Detroit’s early history. In the process, Marrero reframes our understanding of Detroit’s development as part of an emerging British Empire in the Great Lakes region. The Board of Governors is pleased to recognize Marrero for her contributions to Wayne State University and the Department of History.



R E C I P I E N T S

Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Awards

JOSEPH ROCHE

Associate Professor

Department of Physical Therapy

Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

The Board of Governors recognizes Joseph Roche, whose primary research areas are Regenerative Muscle Biology and Pharmacology. His degree is in physical therapy degree, and his scholarship focuses primarily on how skeletal muscle responds and adapts to the pathological mechanisms underlying muscular dystrophies. During 2020, Roche and his wife, Renuka Roche, developed a bradykinin (BK) for COVID-19 complications. Early in 2020, he hypothesized that established treatments for increasing BK levels, using ACE inhibitors, might also alleviate certain symptoms of COVID-19. In May 2020, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology's FASEB Journal published the article by Roche and Renuka Roche, *A hypothesized role for dysregulated bradykinin signaling in COVID-19 respiratory complications*. Additionally, Roche presented a virtual talk on his research regarding muscle and COVID-19 at the National Institutes of Health. Roche's article has already been highly cited and has received attention in some of the field's most prestigious journals. The Board of Governors is pleased to recognize Roche for his contributions to Wayne State University and the Department of Physical Therapy.

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.



R E C I P I E N T S

Murray E. Jackson University Creative Scholar in the Arts Award

DONOVAN HOHN

Associate Professor

Department of English

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Donovan Hohn, a leading practitioner of the essay in a meditative, literary mode, is the 2021-22 recipient of the Murray Jackson Creative Scholar in the Arts Award. He will work on his third book, *The Disenchanted Gardener: Searching for the Cosmos, History, and Consolation in an American Back Yard*. The project will be an “experiment essay,” during which he will turn his own back yard into an archeological, zoological, botanical, geological, climatological, ecological, historical, cultural, and in some sense economic and political field site. Hohn will also continue to work on two collaborative projects to cultivate creative learning communities in Detroit by raising new awareness of the ever-changing natural world and our ever-changing place in it. He is faculty director for a City of Asylum initiative that will culminate in a print or digital production and a live performance. Hohn will also continue a collaboration between Wayne State and the University of Michigan to develop a curriculum of public history and memory about the Detroit River that students would help produce in various media.

AWARD COMMITTEE

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& Art History
College of Fine, Performing,
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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, 271 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.



R E C I P I E N T S

Career Development Chairs

JONATHAN ANDERSON

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

Professor Jonathan Anderson's Career Development Chair project will be engaging in innovative, creative research involving collaborations between electronic music composers and dance practitioners. His project, Coding Creative Research in Movement-Based Interactive Electronic Music: Building Performance Spaces for Composition and Choreographic Sonification, will employ infrared camera technology and cloud-based computing to produce real-time interactive electronic music and dance performances. The use of technology will allow Anderson to collect real-time data from dancers' bodies that can be transferred to electronic music software to produce music that changes with the dancers' movements. This work has the potential to open up new ways of rehearsing and performing dance and music collaborations both remotely and in person.

KHALED BEYDOUN

Associate Professor
Law School

Professor Khaled Beydoun is a leading scholar and public intellectual whose groundbreaking work has helped open up a national and international conversation about Islamophobia. Building on the success of his 2018 monograph *American Islamophobia: Understanding the Roots and Rise of Fear* (University of California Press, 2018), Beydoun will be supported by the Career Development Chair in completing a new book project entitled *The New Crusades: Islamophobia, the World, and the Wars Between*. *The New Crusades* will uniquely and crucially extend Beydoun's work on anti-Muslim persecution beyond America to a global context. Bringing complex legal expertise to popular discourse, Beydoun's scholarship has already shaped the ways we think and talk about anti-Muslim persecution and the global "War on Terror." Beydoun's current and ongoing work is timely, high-stakes, and deeply needed in our own community and beyond.



SUSANNE BRUMMELTE

Associate Professor
 Department of Psychology
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Susanne Brummelte's Career Development Chair project, utilizing whole-brain activity mapping to visualize changes in the maternal brain after opioid exposure, will explore the possible impacts of buprenorphine on the maternal brain. This project uses a combination of behavioral testing and innovative brain scanning technology on a translational rodent model to investigate the impacts that exposure to opioids might have on maternal care. With the current global opioid crisis, this Career Development Chair research can fill a critical role in the understanding of gestational opioid exposure within the field of Psychology.

PENELOPE HIGGS

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

Professor Penelope Higgs will be engaging in a new research project, Elucidation of a Bacterial Biofilm Phosphoproteome, for her Career Development Chair Award. Her work has been recognized within the field of microbiology for its creativity, and this new research will expand her work to examine the role of Ser/Thr protein kinome in directing biofilm formation. This research will impact the understanding of biofilms, communities of bacterial encased in an extracellular matrix that shields the community from anti-microbial agents. Her innovative research has broad practical implications because of the risk of biofilm formation on medical devices and in industrial settings.



RECIPIENTS

Career Development Chairs

KAREN MACDONELL

Associate Professor

Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences

School of Medicine

Professor Karen MacDonell is a highly regarded leader in health disparities research with a strong record of NIH grant-supported projects and publications. Her work focuses on developing and testing behavioral health interventions, particularly those using mobile technology (“mHealth”), for adolescents and young adults with chronic conditions such as asthma and HIV. Her current project will build on this previous work by examining the impact of COVID-19 on the health, mental health, and healthcare behaviors of Detroit African American emerging adults (18-29), or AAEA, with moderate to severe persistent asthma. In doing so, it will contribute to a better understanding of three interrelated health disparities: (1) COVID-19 has been shown to more severely affect people with pre-existing conditions like asthma; (2) AAEA disproportionately experience asthma prevalence, hospitalization rates, and asthma mortality; and (3) African Americans face disproportionate rates of severe infection and mortality from COVID-19. The data collected from this project will be used to consider what kinds of health interventions, education, and other methods can most effectively address these disparities.

ANDREW NEWMAN

Associate Professor

Department of Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Andrew Newman is an anthropologist specializing in urban ethnography and global cities, with special expertise in community-engaged scholarship. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, Newman is the author of *Landscape of Discontent: Urban Sustainability in Immigrant Paris* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015) and co-editor of *A People's Atlas of Detroit* (Wayne State University Press, 2020). The Career Development Chair will support Newman's progress in a new monograph entitled *Empire's Garden: Anthropology and the Racialization of Vision in fin-de-siècle Paris*, a historical analysis of human exhibitions held by anthropologists at the Jardin d'Acclimatation (Acclimatization Garden) in Paris between 1877-1908. Discussing the degrading displays of indigenous people as examples of racial difference at these exhibitions, *Empire's Gardens* argues that anthropology, as a field, must continue to confront its history of scientific racism and, simultaneously, find a radically new way to show itself to the public.



FEDERICO RABUFFETTI

Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Federico Rabuffetti is an inorganic chemist who is an expert in the rational synthesis and characterization of new materials with important and tunable properties, like changing emission color as a function of changing temperature. His research at Wayne State University has made major contributions to the competitive area of materials chemistry. His research has resulted in 20 peer-reviewed publications in top chemistry journals, including the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Chemical Communications*, *Inorganic Chemistry*, and *Chemistry of Materials*. Rabuffetti's studies have also resulted in external funding in the form of a single-investigator grant from the National Science Foundation and a prestigious Cottrell Scholar Award. Rabuffetti's current research involves thermal barrier coatings that are critical for the efficient and sustainable operation of gas turbines used for electricity generation and aerospace propulsion. These studies are expected to help meet the increasing need for higher efficiency and lower emissions from turbines.

JADA STRABBING

Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Jada Strabbing has already become a well-known and influential figure in her field, having published in several of the top journals in philosophy and ethics. Her research focuses on agency, moral responsibility, and blame. Her CDC project will consist of the completion of a book titled *Blame and Forgiveness* that builds on her previous work. The book will be the first to focus on this topic from a philosophical perspective, and it will examine the underappreciated complexity of the relationship between blame and forgiveness. It will also provide a novel account of forgiveness itself that emphasizes the power of forgiveness to bring about reconciliation with a repentant wrongdoer. One of her approach's key insights will be its attention to how people can be open to forgiving one another on different relationship "levels"—e.g., as a spouse, business partner, friend, or person. This explains why people are sometimes willing to forgive someone without being willing to continue in a close relationship with that person: this occurs when people are open to forgiving on a lower relationship level like that of a fellow person, but not on a higher level like that of friendship.

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, 50 graduate faculty members have received the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award.



ALEXEY PETROV

Professor

Department of Physics and Astronomy

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Alexey Petrov's research has been recognized not only through the nearly 9,000 extant citations to his scholarship at present but through such honors as his appointment as a fellow of the American Physical Society and the consistent support of his scholarship by such agencies as the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy. Petrov's leadership in research is no less prominent at Wayne State, where he has served, among other roles, as the Wayne State Academy of Scholars president. Colleagues and students have testified to the ways that Petrov brings the same passion and scholarship to teaching and mentoring of students. He has directed six Ph.D. students, all currently holding faculty or postdoc positions, and has been a key figure in the Physics and Astronomy department's development of innovative curriculum within their programs and through collaborations with other units at Wayne State. While Petrov's research sometimes focuses on the smallest of particles, his innovative and teaching methods, as well as his skill at engaging public interest in physics through social media and other venues, have made truly tremendous contributions to his students, his department, and the university during his nearly two decades at Wayne State.

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.



BRADY BAYBECK

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

“What else can I do to help?” This is how a former student describes the experience of working with Professor Brady Baybeck. Since arriving at Wayne State in 2011, Baybeck has directed five Ph.D. dissertations and served on five other dissertation committees. He served two terms as the program director for the Political Science department’s large, top-100 ranked Masters of Public Administration program and later as the Graduate Program Director for the Ph.D. program. His record shows the emphasis he places on helping graduate students to achieve their academic and professional dreams. He grounds his mentoring in three key principles: providing students enthusiastic, positive reinforcement with direct and actionable feedback, socializing students into their professions or disciplines, and helping students to develop project management skills. Former students say he invests in them as a whole during doctoral studies and beyond. As one former student explains, “he saw what I was capable of, even when I could not.” His Ph.D. mentees have been placed in tenured and tenure-track positions at Grand Valley State University, Fairfield University, and Auburn University, to name a few. He credits his own mentors in developing his mentoring philosophy and practice and seeks to continue their legacies.

ALANA CONTI

Associate Professor
 Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences
 School of Medicine

Since coming to Wayne State University in 2009 as an Assistant Professor, Dr. Alana Conti has mentored two dozen graduate and medical students across different programs in numerous roles, including as dissertation advisor, thesis committee member, and academic and career mentor. She serves as Program Officer and Chair of the Student Advisory Committee of the Translational Neuroscience Program. Her mentees, including undergraduate students and post-doctoral fellows, have achieved great successes, including travel awards to national meetings, NIH fellowships, tuition scholarships, poster awards, elected positions in professional academic societies, F32 fellowships, and faculty positions. Conti’s mentoring approach is compassionate, inclusive, holistic, and not limited to academic success but also geared towards life-career balance. Conti is highly regarded for her outstanding mentoring achievements not only by her mentees but also by her colleagues. Her mentees comment that “[Conti] is kind, caring, enthusiastic, encouraging and empathetic toward all of her students,” “[Conti] has consistently made me feel as if she sets forth 110% to my progress and development as a translational neuroscientist,” “she engages everyone from the high school level to her senior post-doctoral trainees,” her “dedication to students is 24/7/365,” and she “goes above and beyond.”



R E C I P I E N T S

Outstanding Graduate Mentor Awards

ZHIXIAN ZHOU

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

During his time at Wayne State, Professor Zhixian Zhou has mentored over a dozen graduate students. He successfully graduated seven Ph.D. students and two master's students, a record for the Department of Physics. In addition, he mentored ten undergraduate students in research. Zhou has been a dedicated mentor, meeting with the graduate students 2-3 times a week individually or as a group to track their research process, help them identify problems and challenges, and find solutions. In his own words, "one of the most important skills a student needs to learn in graduate school is the ability to solve real problems," which students learn through independent research projects. Zhou has led a prolific research laboratory, publishing 30 manuscripts with graduate student co-authors since his start at WSU. Zhou has demonstrated a strong commitment to student training. As stated by one of his recent Ph.D. graduates, "the most admirable aspect of [Zhou]'s mentoring is his unwavering commitment to helping his students." As a result of his hard work and dedication to student training, graduate students from Zhou's laboratory have gone on to successful careers in US government labs, academia, and industry.

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



RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Graduate Director Service Award

IVAN AVRUTSKY

Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
College of Engineering

Professor Ivan Avrutsky has served as graduate program director in Electrical and Computer Engineering since 2018. During that time, according to the chair, “[the] graduate program has significantly improved in all fronts including advising and supporting students, improving the curriculum, and recruiting and retaining students.” Avrutsky has worked tirelessly on behalf of graduate students, improving the graduation rate of Ph.D. students through close monitoring and advising, and streamlining the comprehensive exam process. He has successfully acted to increase master’s student enrollment through the strategic development of an accelerated master’s program in partnership with the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Avrutsky has also contributed to the graduate program’s cutting-edge curriculum, working with the ECE Industrial Advisory Board to implement the College of Engineering’s “bridge the gap with industry” initiative, introducing 1-credit elective courses taught by experts from industry. Avrutsky participates actively in university initiatives related to graduate education and spearheaded the graduate-level review required as part of the department’s recent Academic Program Review. All of these efforts demonstrate his significant contributions to the success of masters and Ph.D. students in electrical and computer engineering and his outstanding service to the graduate program.

JOSHUA DUCHAN

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

Professor Joshua Duchan is an exceptional Graduate Director in the Department of Music. Since 2016, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of students in the Master of Arts in Music and Master of Music degrees, promoting a musical and scholarly community of student-artists. His attention to the lives of the department’s students has paid off in high levels of recruitment and student retention, four rumble fellows and eight students presenting at conferences or residencies. Under his leadership, new courses have been developed, processes have been clarified, and a new hybrid MA concentration in musicology is on the horizon. Beyond his work in the Department of Music, Duchan is a leader in graduate education and an advocate for the arts in his college and the university. As his colleagues note, “[Duchan], the teacher-scholar-leader, is the one faculty that has created the greatest potential of graduate student growth and retention in 40 years.” For these and many other reasons, Duchan is extremely deserving of the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Director Award.



LAUREN KALMAN

Associate Professor

Department of Art & Art History

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Lauren Kalman is an exceptional Graduate Director in the Department of Art and Art History. She has been an exemplary leader in improving the curriculum in fine arts and design pedagogy, creating pedagogical resources for the graduate teaching assistants, and cultivating a diverse student body. As her colleagues note, “[She] has worked rigorously to make a stronger graduate program with more transparency in its functions. She has served as a thoughtful administrator of the graduate program and a dedicated mentor to the graduate students.” One of her significant achievements has been directing significant graduate curriculum revisions to increase enrollment by offering a personalized program with interdisciplinary opportunities. Her leadership demonstrates a deep commitment to supporting the values of diversity and inclusion within the department. As a strong advocate for students and the Department of Art and Art History, Kalman is highly deserving of the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Director Award.

Garrett T. Heberlein Endowed Award 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.



ROBERT CARR

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

Robert Carr is a non-traditional student with rather more life experience than the typical graduate student. He has been a natural leader among the teaching assistants in physics and astronomy and is the “go-to” teaching assistant for introductory astronomy labs. As WSU switched to online teaching, Carr led the task of converting the hands-on labs into online labs. He recorded multiple videos designed to enable students to take measurements virtually. He is therefore especially commended for his remarkable achievements in instructional design. Carr is very interested in active learning and, through participation in the GTA training course and self-study, and has developed an excellent approach to engaging students. He has distinguished himself as an approachable, well-liked, and well-prepared teacher, resulting in very high SET scores. Currently, Carr is developing a module that will engage students by using a remote Zowada observatory located in New Mexico to allow students to analyze actual astronomical data and writing a research paper on the performance of the Zowada observatory.

KELSEY MESMER

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Communication
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Kelsey Mesmer, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Communication, is a skilled and empathetic classroom leader whose versatility reflects the pragmatic focus and cross-disciplinary reach of her scholarship. Mesmer has taught two skills classes that are foundational to the journalism and public relations sequences, reflecting her professional background, along with an introductory course in organizational communication (reflecting her MBA) and an upper-division research methods course. She also excelled in the basic communication course and assisted in the capstone course for communication studies students. She models professional behavior for future journalists and PR practitioners and works continuously to improve her craft; her understanding of program needs as well as student needs made her a leader as the department moved its programs online in response to the pandemic. Along with her efforts in the classroom, she has developed a compelling and timely dissertation examining how journalists enact resilience in the face of official and public hostility. Her work matches the Heberlein Award’s purpose of elevating the value of teaching in the preparation of future faculty members: She will be the fortunate professor who can teach the knowledge she creates from the start.



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