

ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS 2024

MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y

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ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS CEREMONY

May 2024

Presentation of Awards

William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Awards

Teacher-Scholar Awards

Community Engagement Scholarship Award

The President's Distinguished Teaching Award

Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership

Distinguished Academic Staff Awards

Excellence-in-Teaching Citations

Donald F. Koch Award for Quality in Undergraduate Teaching

Faculty Emeriti Association Award for

"Outstanding Contributions by an Individual or Team of Faculty"

WILLIAM J. BEAL OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS

Awards are based on a comprehensive and sustained record of scholarly excellence in research and/or creative activities, instruction, and outreach.

Erich Grotewold

Mohammad H. Khalil

Shannon Manning

Deborah McCullough

Adam J. Moeser

Kristen Renn

Dana M. Spence

Zhou Tian

Yimin Xiao

J. Scott Yaruss

The William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Awards are supported by the Office of University Advancement at Michigan State University.

WILLIAM J. BEAL OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENTS IN ACTION

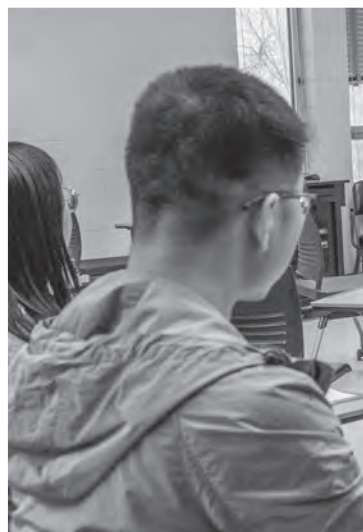


1. Erich Grotewold
2. Mohammad H. Khalil
3. Shannon Manning
4. Deborah McCullough
5. Adam J. Moeser





1. Kristen Renn
2. Dana M. Spence
3. Zhou Tian
4. Yimin Xiao
5. J. Scott Yaruss





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**Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
College of Natural Science**

ERICH GROTEWOLD

Dr. Erich Grotewold is a world-renowned plant scientist whose research centers on determining the genetic contributors of maize resiliency to climate change and insects, as well as the genetic factors controlling oil production in seed plants used to produce renewable bioenergy.

Dr. Grotewold has over 200 publications, including nearly 150 published in peer-reviewed journals and has been continuously funded since 1994. His present research collaborations are supported by over \$20 million of externally funded grants. Over the last decade he has given over 20 talks at international conferences and other venues. He was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2009, and a Fellow of the American Society of Plant Physiologists in 2022. In 2021 he began serving as a member of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Biological Science Directorate Committee of External Advisors and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Society of Plant Biologists.

Dr. Grotewold has had a career-long interest in increasing diversity in science education; of the 168 undergraduate students trained in his research group, 13 belonged to underrepresented groups, in addition to mentoring 13 graduate students and 29 post-doctoral trainees. His commitment to education and training is broad and deep, including co-directing the Success in Graduate Education (SiGuE) program which helps students become more competitive in masters, doctoral and professional career programs nationwide. His dedication to mentoring also extends beyond trainees as evidenced by his engagement with early-career faculty members during his five years as chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

For his outstanding scholarly record and unwavering commitment to teaching and mentoring, Dr. Grotewold is highly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Religious Studies
College of Arts & Letters

MOHAMMAD KHALIL

Dr. Mohammad Khalil is a transformative scholar who excels in all areas across the mission of the university. He is an outstanding teacher, leader, and engaged community member and an internationally impactful scholar in Muslim thought and studies. His range of expertise is noteworthy, neither bound to a specific time nor geographic location.

Dr. Khalil is the author of two monographs, "Islam and the Fate of Others" (Oxford, 2012) and "Jihad, Radicalism, and the New Atheism" (Cambridge, 2019), and two edited collections, "Between Heaven and Hell: Islam, Salvation, and the Fate of Others" (Oxford, 2013) and "Muslims and U.S. Politics Today: A Defining Moment" (Harvard, 2019). He has written numerous articles that have been highly influential in his field. From traditional print scholarship to innovative research in digital humanities, to documentary film, Dr. Khalil has worked in multiple mediums both independently and with collaborators to present ground-breaking research within the academy and to the public.

Dr. Khalil is an award-winning professor and recipient of the 2013 Fintz Award for Teaching Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, the 2015 MSU Teacher-Scholar Award and the 2023 College of Arts and Letters Paul Varg Alumni Award. His teaching is legendary among students for its creativity and engagement, with great effort put into course construction. He enriches the educational lives of every student who has the privilege of taking one of his courses and is regarded as an outstanding educator.

Dr. Khalil's service and outreach to the entire MSU community, particularly in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts has been recognized, having earned the 2017 MSU Excellence in Diversity Award. As the director of the Muslim Studies Program, he is actively engaged in outreach activities and programming on and off campus and is regarded nationally and internationally as an expert by media outlets, sharing expertise and insights to the broader public.

For his commitment to education of the highest standards and embodying the ideals of the institution, Dr. Khalil is most deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



**Microbiology, Genetics, & Immunology
College of Natural Science**

SHANNON MANNING

Dr. Shannon Manning, MSU Foundation professor, has merged public health, epidemiology, and molecular microbiology to become a world leader in the study of infectious disease and its transmission. She seeks to understand infectious disease by studying bacterial pathogens isolated from real-world environments. Her research works closely with the Michigan Department of Public Health to isolate bacterial pathogens from human clinical samples, which she then characterizes at the genome and phenotypic level in her laboratory.

Dr. Manning's novel insights have led to the discovery of hyper-infectious *E. coli* obtained from ingesting contaminated food products and group B streptococcus, which causes serious pregnancy and birth complications. Her research has been extensively funded by a wide array of sources, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Dr. Manning works closely with the Michigan Department of Health to recognize and respond to potential infectious outbreaks. Her laboratory has trained dozens of postdoctoral associates, Ph.D. students and undergraduate students. Many of her students now serve in key public health positions, protecting the health of Michigan residents.

Dr. Manning is an inspiring and respected educator, teaching both undergraduate and graduate students about infectious disease caused by bacteria and other single-celled microbes. She is an outstanding mentor to the students in her laboratory and throughout the entire department, winning the Best Mentor Award from the National Postdoctoral Association in 2016, the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award from the College of Natural Science in 2017, and the American Society of Microbiology Alice C. Evans Award for Advancement of Women in 2023.

Dr. Manning serves in leadership roles within her department and the broader university, while also serving as the editor of several journals and a grant reviewer for many national agencies. She was recently recognized as one of the preeminent microbiologists in the world by being elected to the American Academy of Microbiology.

For her world-renowned research and scholarship, and commitment to teaching and mentoring, Dr. Manning is highly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Entomology and Forestry
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

DEBORAH McCULLOUGH

Dr. Deborah McCullough has led a program of research, teaching, and extension to address the insects that threaten our forests and urban trees. Her research combines basic and applied approaches to understand the ecology of these insect pests, seamlessly combining data from her own studies and those of colleagues from around the world.

Dr. McCullough's highly cited publications have prepared Michigan communities and land managers to address devastating pests including the emerald ash borer, long-horned beetles, and spotted lanternfly. Her research projects range from basic to applied studies that serve to enhance our understanding of forest insect biology, impacts and dynamics, while generating practical information to address important problems. Most of her work involves invasive forest insects because of the economic and ecological costs associated with several major pests. These projects help inform decision-making by agencies across Michigan, pest control companies, the federal government, and international regulatory organizations.

Dr. McCullough's students consistently praise her enthusiasm, knowledge, and organization, and how well her courses prepare them. She utilizes real-life examples from her research

and MSU Extension experiences to challenge students to consider how politics, economics, and public perception can affect forest pest management. In the entomology labs, she uses a collaborative, active learning process to engage students, and she performs three joint entomology-pathology field trips in spring to demonstrate the interactions of insects, pathogens, and site conditions.

Dr. McCullough's Extension activities allow her to provide practical advice and objective information on emerald ash borer and invasive forest insect ecology to resource managers, regulatory officials, private arborists and landscapers, and property owners in North America and internationally. She collaborates with Extension educators to answer questions and provide training for foresters, arborists, nature centers, and chestnut or Christmas tree producers. As one colleague wrote, if there is a threat from a new invasive insect attacking trees, those facing the challenge will say, "We need Deb McCullough on this."

For her dedication to her students and supporting the health of our state's, nation's and world's forests, Dr. McCullough is highly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



**Large Animal Clinical Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine**

ADAM MOESER

Dr. Adam Moeser is a veterinarian-scientist whose pioneering work resides at the critical junction of animal and human health. His seminal research carved out new pathways in understanding the profound effects of early-life stress on brain-gut axis communication and disease susceptibility throughout one's life. His team's research has reshaped animal husbandry by revealing the longstanding adverse impacts of early weaning on gastrointestinal and immune systems, inciting a revolutionary shift in swine industry practices toward more humane and sustainable methods.

Dr. Moeser's research has led to the discovery of sex-based differences in immune response, unveiling why females may be more prone to stress-related and allergic diseases—a finding that transcends species, informing treatment approaches for conditions like asthma and irritable bowel syndrome in humans. These insights have enriched scientific understanding and have been instrumental in pinpointing novel therapeutic targets to advance human and veterinary medicine.

Dr. Moeser's work has global impact, evidenced by his robust and sustained funding from prestigious sources like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as

the consistent industry support since 2008, totaling over \$15 million in funding over his 14-year faculty career. His research features over 80 peer-reviewed articles, including publications in high-impact journals like "PNAS," "Immunity," and "Brain Behavior, and Immunity," and he has been an invited speaker with more than 130 presentations worldwide. With over 6,000 citations, his work is a cornerstone in the field, frequently referenced by peers and industry professionals.

Beyond his research, Dr. Moeser is a luminary in mentorship. Over the past five years, he has guided seven scientists and currently mentors seven trainees while also playing a key role in the guidance committees of 16 graduate students. His mentees' successes are a testament to his mentorship, having garnered prestigious awards and seamlessly securing esteemed roles in academia, government and industry.

For his achievements in teaching and mentorship, and his profound commitment to shaping the future of science and positively impacting lives on a global scale, Dr. Moeser is greatly deserving of Michigan State University's William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



**Educational Administration
College of Education**

KRISTEN RENN

Dr. Kristen Renn, Mildred B. Erickson Distinguished chair, is an award-winning international expert on college student learning, development and success. She leads the field of LGBTQ+ research in higher education and conducted landmark studies of mixed-race college students. Her groundbreaking research in these areas has influenced higher education policy, programs and practice, and her intellectual leadership has created opportunities for generations of queer and mixed-race scholars and educators.

Dr. Renn has served in significant administrative roles leading initiatives and research on undergraduate student success. Her contributions helped catalyze the transformation of MSU's approach to supporting low-income, first-generation, and racially minoritized students through data-informed programs, services, research, and assessment.

Dr. Renn has been principal investigator (PI) or co-PI on over \$8.5 million in funding to support research and student success efforts from sources that include the U.S. Department of Education and several national foundations including the Lumina, Bill & Melinda Gates, and Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundations. Her contributions have been recognized with

several honors including the Distinguished Contribution to Gender Equity in Education Research award from the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the Body of Work Award from the AERA Queer Studies Special Interest Group, and the Contribution to Knowledge Award from the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

Dr. Renn's teaching and advising are central to her identity as a faculty member. She won an Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Education, and she has chaired 47 Ph.D. dissertations and served on an additional 95 dissertation committees. She is past president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) and has served on governing boards of scholarly and student affairs professional associations. She was associate editor of the "Journal of College Student Development" and is a founding associate editor of the "Journal of Queer and Trans Studies in Education."

For her transformational work in student success by influencing policy, programs and practice, Dr. Renn is most deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Biomedical Engineering
College of Engineering

DANA M. SPENCE

Dr. Dana Spence and his broad understanding of both science and engineering principles related to disease processes have enabled him to illuminate molecular mechanisms of disease processes and design innovative therapies. His 15 years of research on type 1 diabetes resulted in the Helmsley Charitable Trust funding his lab to conduct a first-in-human clinical trial of C-peptide as a co-therapy with insulin for diabetes patients. This innovative treatment regimen, if proven effective, could help millions of patients.

Dr. Spence's lab is well known for a trend-setting engineering innovation: showing that 3D printers could manufacture high-precision, customizable, analytical devices to accelerate research progress in multiple fields. The Spence lab's seminal paper on this topic has been cited 2,000 times. In the words of one distinguished researcher, "Dr. Spence's work led the way. He demonstrated that 3D printed systems could be robust, could have integrated connections (always the issue with soft systems) and most importantly could be used to precisely probe the molecular mechanisms used by cells such as red blood cells."

Dr. Spence has established an outstanding record of training students in the classroom and the research laboratory. He is the recipient

of a College of Engineering Withrow Teaching Excellence Award, and the 35 doctoral students who have received Ph.D. degrees under his tutelage have benefitted from his mentoring. One Ph.D. graduate wrote, "He is the best lecturer I've observed at MSU, as he is thorough, clear in expectations, understanding, approachable (open-door policy), organized, and always prioritizes the student's best interest. I try to model my own teaching-style based on his."

Dr. Spence has also been recognized nationally for professional service and was awarded a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service Award. Within MSU, he has earned a reputation as a model academic citizen who embodies MSU values, including honoring diversity. His career has been marked by a commitment to training graduate students from underrepresented groups, with two-thirds of the Ph.D. students he has graduated being female, a group that is underrepresented in both science and engineering.

For his sustained excellence in innovative research and a demonstrated dedication to the success of his students, Dr. Spence is richly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Composition
College of Music

ZHOU TIAN

Dr. Zhou Tian, Grammy-nominated Chinese-American composer, has had his orchestral, choral, and chamber works performed at many of the world's most prestigious venues by some of the most prominent orchestras and performers of our time, including Yuja Wang, the New York Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, Dover Quartet, and Shanghai Symphony, where he recently served as the artist-in-residence.

Dr. Zhou's "Concerto for Orchestra," commissioned and recorded by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, earned him a Grammy Award nomination for Best Contemporary Classical Composition in 2018, making him the first Chinese-born composer and the second Asian composer honored in that category. In 2019, the Beijing Music Festival named him "Artist of the Year." And in 2022, he became the first Asian-American composer to win the coveted Sousa-Ostwald Award from the American Bandmasters Association for "Sinfonia." Regarding Dr. Zhou's "Transcend," for orchestra, conductor Laura Jackson noted, "I have never seen a composer dive so deeply into research for a composition." In response to that work, "The Wall Street Journal" declared that Dr. Zhou's works, "accomplish

two important things: They remind us of how we got from there to here, and they refine that history by paying belated tribute to contributors who might otherwise be forgotten."

Dr. Zhou is a dedicated teacher, inspiring students to explore their full artistic identity. His students have received national awards and honors, numerous performances, and job placements, and the diversity of their work demonstrates his commitment to nurturing each student's creative individuality. As a mentor he often goes above and beyond, including through co-leadership in the Frequency program (supported by the Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation), which connects student composers across campus to write music for promotional media, with recent clients including MSU Athletics and the Institute for Cyber-Enabled Research. Since joining the College of Music in 2016, his excellent record of creative work, teaching, and service have helped to propel the composition program to national prominence.

For his extraordinary creative accomplishments and dedication to serving students, colleagues, and the institution, Dr. Zhou is truly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



**Statistics and Probability
College of Natural Science**

YIMIN XIAO

Dr. Yimin Xiao is a world-renowned expert in probability and has a record of excellence in research in several areas of probability theory, contributing significantly to the advancement of our knowledge in those areas. Among those are stochastic processes, random fields, stochastic partial differential equations, and random fractals.

Dr. Xiao's research has been published in top-tier academic journals and has been cited extensively by scholars and practitioners worldwide. As a highly prolific and visible writer, he has published over 100 articles, and his work has attracted thousands of citations. In addition, he is a vivid conference and seminar speaker and has lectured at more than 75 conferences and seminars since 2015. One colleague noted, "His papers are of high mathematical quality and always contain very innovative ideas. He has been invited to present his results in several national and international conferences, which illustrates his worldwide visibility."

Dr. Xiao has also contributed to the academic community of probability and statistics. He has served as the co-editor in chief and managing editor for two international journals, "Statistics and Probability Letters" and "Fractal Geometry." He has organized 15 conferences and special sessions as well as serving as a panelist for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a reviewer of grant proposals for national and international funding agencies.

Dr. Xiao is also an excellent educator and mentor. Known as a first-rate undergraduate educator, he has also served as an enthusiastic supervisor of Ph.D. students, having advised or co-advised eight students. He has been leading the probability research and training on campus and contributing to training the next generation of mathematical statisticians in the MSU community. In addition, he served as acting chair and associate chair for the Department of Statistics and Probability.

For his exceptional dedication to his work in the areas of research, teaching and service, Dr. Xiao is most deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Communicative Sciences and Disorders
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

J. SCOTT YARUSS

Dr. J. Scott Yaruss has profoundly shaped how speech-language pathologists help individuals who stutter. His groundbreaking work highlighted that stuttering is more than what an observer can see or hear. Rather, stuttering has a substantial impact on the person who stutters, and the personal experience of stuttering needs to be considered when therapy goals and treatment approaches are being established.

Dr. Yaruss' research has resulted in the development of the clinical tool Overall Assessment of the Speaker's Experience of Stuttering (OASES), which has now been translated into more than 30 languages for use around the world. One acclaimed scholar noted, "It is impossible for me to imagine many living researchers who have had that much impact on a single field outside of major medical discoveries. There is simply nothing comparable in the field of communication sciences and disorders."

Dr. Yaruss has had a profound training impact among speech-language pathologists around the world by offering nearly 800 workshops on five continents. His effectiveness as an instructor is shaped by his research expertise but also the clinical skills he has honed over many years of providing therapy to

individuals who stutter. He is also a dedicated teacher and mentor to undergraduate and graduate students. Students overwhelmingly comment on his kind and supportive approach in the classroom and in mentoring. In one student's words, "He genuinely cares about students' progress, hardships, and well-being. To me, Scott is a mentor I can trust, rely on, and laugh with, and is the type of mentor I hope to be one day."

Dr. Yaruss' service to the university and his profession are considerable. He serves on numerous review panels, editorial boards, and foundation boards and is committed to seeing his scholarly, teaching and clinical work put to good use in improving lives. He also carries a sizeable service load in his department and college including serving as the director of the Communicative Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Ph.D. program, chairing the CSD DEI Committee, and sitting on college and departmental-level committees.

For his immeasurable impact on the speech-language pathology profession through scholarship, teaching, mentorship, and service, Dr. Yaruss is wholly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.

TEACHER-SCHOLAR AWARDS

These awards are presented to faculty who have earned the respect of students and colleagues early in their careers for their devotion to and skill in teaching and whose instruction is linked to and informed by their research and creative activities.

Jennifer Doherty

Yvonne Lam

Kirtimaan Mohan

Andrew J. Olive

Linda Sayed

Sitara Thobani

The Teacher-Scholar Awards are supported by the Office of University Advancement at Michigan State University.



Lyman Briggs College

JENNIFER DOHERTY

Dr. Jennifer Doherty is a biologist and innovative teacher who explores the development of students' reasoning when learning physiology. Her early career focused on identifying what students knew about assorted physiology phenomena like blood flow, muscle contraction and breathing. Now her work is focused on how students actually learn and the relationship between learning experiences and why students develop new knowledge. This knowledge can help transform how curricula is developed to support students in learning complex ideas.

Dr. Doherty is a faculty member jointly in Lyman Briggs College and the Department of Physiology in the College of Natural Sciences where she puts her research directly into practice in her classroom. In her introductory biology courses, she created a student-centered classroom that uses standards-based grading. Through this approach to assessment, she identifies the core learning objectives and provides students multiple opportunities to demonstrate their success at meeting the objective. Students focus their

attention on their own learning, and Dr. Doherty can serve in the role of supporting mentor.

Dr. Doherty also works to understand how support systems around a faculty member can influence their own development as classroom instructors. She has helped develop a teaching fellowship program that supports faculty to engage with a variety of evidence-based teaching practices. She also supports the development of faculty through her involvement in the American Physiological Society's Center for Physiology Education and the Ecological Society of America's Four-Dimensional Ecology Education (4DEE) Taskforce which strive to improve the quality of biology education for all students.

For her innovative instructional approaches in biology courses and for advancing our understanding of how students learn complex ideas, Dr. Doherty is most deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



College of Music

YVONNE LAM

Ms. Yvonne Lam is an internationally recognized teacher and performer. A top prizewinner of several international competitions, Ms. Lam has served as assistant concertmaster of the Washington National Opera and as co-artistic director of the new music ensemble Eighth Blackbird, with whom she won a Grammy award for Best Chamber Ensemble Performance in 2015. She has commissioned and premiered over 100 new chamber works, and “Watch Over Us,” her latest recording released by Blue Griffin Records and funded by a Humanities and Arts Research Program (HARP) grant, is a critically acclaimed album of works composed by women for solo violin and electronics.

Ms. Lam joined the MSU faculty in fall 2019 and since that time has recruited a vibrant studio of violinists and implemented innovative teaching methods, including group meditation and mental performance coaching to support her students holistically. Her doctoral students have earned academic positions at institutions abroad, producing lecture recitals and documents researching underrepresented women composers. They have also won title positions in the Detroit Opera and Kalamazoo Symphony. As head

of the chamber music program, Ms. Lam invites world-class guest artists to give masterclasses to student groups and sends them out to perform in the community.

Ms. Lam is also dedicated to diversity in programming. She represents MSU in a consortium commissioning project called “Resonate,” which has commissioned six composers to write chamber works on the theme of the African diaspora and will continue with four more composers writing new chamber works to be premiered in the 2025-2026 season. She was a featured artist on WKAR’s first “Music for Social Justice” episode and founded the annual Lunar New Year Concert series in 2021 to present programs highlighting composers of Asian descent. Additionally, she received a Creating Inclusive Excellence grant from MSU in 2022 to commission composer Shuying Li to write a new chamber work premiering at the 2024 Lunar New Year Concert.

For her unparalleled accomplishments as an internationally recognized violin teacher and performer, and for innovative instruction to support the success of her students, Ms. Lam is wholly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



Lyman Briggs College

KIRTIMAAN MOHAN

Dr. Kirtimaan Mohan is a high-energy particle physicist and a passionate teacher who has developed new theoretical models for the behavior of fundamental particles. He has used his expertise in computation and physics to both advance the field of high-energy physics and engage students in meaningful learning.

Dr. Mohan's research focuses on the theory and phenomenology of electroweak symmetry breaking and physics beyond the standard model of particle physics. The standard model of elementary particles has been tested to a high degree of precision over several decades but remains deficient in explaining several phenomena. Dr. Mohan assesses the validity of new lines of thought by constructing new physics models supported by theoretical arguments (such as naturalness or the hierarchy problem) to explain certain experimental phenomena such as dark matter. By doing so, he has

been able to explain certain phenomena that cannot be explained within the framework of the standard model.

Dr. Mohan has taught introductory physics classes using a studio model, where students transition between content exploration through experimentation and group discussion, and the development of content ideas using the results of their experiments. This form of learning is both innovative and effective in supporting students' collaborative learning. He has also incorporated computation and programming into the studio physics curriculum, so students can see the value of computation in developing solutions for complex problems.

For his engaging instruction in his physics classes and for advancing the field of high-energy particle physics, Dr. Mohan is highly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



Microbiology, Genetics, and Immunology
College of Osteopathic Medicine

ANDREW J. OLIVE

Dr. Andrew Olive has studied the immune response to many important pathogens over the last 20 years and is an international leader in immunology. His successful research program at MSU focused on the host response to respiratory pathogens and has been awarded more than \$8 million in grant funding over the last five years. His unique expertise and passion for learning makes him an outstanding teacher of immunology to MSU undergraduates.

Dr. Olive's primary course, Fundamentals in Immunology, uses a flipped classroom approach that leverages chalk-talk style lectures with problem-based learning. The focus on student success, critical thinking, and material retention, encouraged through one-of-a-kind take-home, open-note, and open-book exams, pushes students beyond the material in the textbook. His integration of real-life case studies and experimental approaches make his course an outstanding example for teaching the life sciences. His dedication to learning is highlighted by overwhelmingly positive student reviews.

As one student noted, "Dr. Olive is an amazing professor who is very passionate about teaching immunology. He cares about his students really learning the material as opposed to just memorizing."

Dr. Olive is also a superb mentor to undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He guides trainees in pursuing biological questions that excite them while mentoring them in immunological research. Because of his excellence as a scientist, mentor and teacher, he is the recipient of the Early Promise of Research Excellence award from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the outstanding Postdoctoral Mentor award from the Microbiology, Genetics, & Immunology department.

For his commitment to innovative teaching approaches and student success, and his leadership in a high-impact research program, Dr. Olive is wholly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



James Madison College

LINDA SAYED

Dr. Linda Sayed is an interdisciplinary teacher-scholar of the Middle East and its diaspora. Her work focuses on the health and human rights of immigrant and refugee populations, and the history and contemporary politics of Islam and the Middle East with an emphasis on gender, sectarianism and nationalism.

Dr. Sayed's scholarship draws on archival, ethnographic, and quantitative research to amplify the experiences of marginalized and displaced communities. She has two major research projects. The first focuses on the Ja'fari shari'a courts, and her publications and book manuscript, "Domesticating Sectarianism," show how women's and men's petitions to the court were gendered claims that intersected with sectarian and national identity as well as social and religious concerns. The second project, supported by the National Institute of Aging, examines the psychosocial impact of COVID-19 on aging Arab-American immigrants. Dr. Sayed also collaborates with senior social scientists via the Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease to publish research on nativity status and dementia and on differential health outcomes for racialized groups in the U.S.

Dr. Sayed's students describe her as a dedicated teacher who centers marginalized histories in her courses. After taking her course on Muslims in America, one student said it was, "the first class that I had taken in high school or college which discussed Islam and Arab-American identity as academic subjects." Her colleagues praise her curricular innovations, which include topics as diverse as feminist thought in the Muslim world to health access for displaced populations.

Dr. Sayed's commitment to her students extends beyond the classroom. She collaborates and co-publishes with students and provides extensive support for underrepresented student groups. Her service to diversity, equity and inclusion is exhaustive, in addition to taking on the roles of mentor, faculty advisor, conference organizer, task force member, and more.

For her expansive interdisciplinary expertise, timely scholarship, innovative teaching, and remarkable service to our university community, Dr. Sayed is most deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

SITARA THOBANI

Dr. Sitara Thobani's research focuses on visual cultures in colonial and postcolonial South Asia and its diasporas. More specifically, she is interested in how artistic practices, as well as representations of these practices, help construct particular formations of gender, sexuality, religion and nation.

Dr. Thobani draws on postcolonial feminist and critical race studies in her scholarship, as well as her experiences as a trained Indian classical dance performer. In both her academic work and artistic practice, she questions essentializing discourses by unpacking the complex histories and underlying relations of power that produce them. She has published widely in the U.S., Canada and the U.K., and has been recognized by awards from the Fulbright Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, British Arts Council, and the Indo-Canadian Shastri Institute.

Dr. Thobani has developed a reputation as a "passionate" and "insightful" professor in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities whose classes are "engaging and stimulate conversation that is both interesting and challenging." In addition

to teaching, Dr. Thobani is committed to developing holistic and sustained mentorship opportunities, especially those that attend to the specific needs of young women of color on campus. She is co-director of the RCAH Sister Circle, a program that integrates academic and artistic work to facilitate intergenerational and peer-to-peer mentorship among women of color faculty and students focused on academic and personal wellbeing.

Dr. Thobani brings that same commitment to student wellbeing and academic advancement in her new role as director of the Asian Pacific American Studies Program and has worked to expand the APAS Graduate Studies Fellowship and forge collaborations with multiple units across campus.

For her commitment to teaching and service activities, all of which are shaped by her deep interest in attending to inequalities in social location, and her commitment to building greater solidarity between and across asymmetrically situated communities, Dr. Thobani is deeply deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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This award is given in recognition of mutually beneficial and sustained campus-community research partnerships.

Courtney Carignan
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
College of Veterinary Medicine

Great Lakes PFAS Action Network
Represented by Sandy Wynn-Stelt

PFAS Research, Education and Action for Community Health

**Food Science and Human Nutrition
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Pharmacology and Toxicology
College of Veterinary Medicine**

COURTNEY CARIGNAN

**Designated Community Partner Representative
Great Lakes PFAS Action Network**

SANDY WYNN-STELT



(Left to Right) Tobyn McNaughton, Courtney Carignan, Sandy Wynn-Stelt. Sandy is co-chair of the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network. Tobyn is a PFAS impacted member of Sandy's community.

Dr. Courtney Carignan and the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network's (GLPAN) partnership has provided critical knowledge on the emerging class of "forever chemicals" or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as PFAS. PFAS has impacted and contaminated drinking water, surface water, and local and homegrown foods in Michigan communities and around the world.

Dr. Carignan's research focused on characterizing exposure to PFAS and developing educational resources for communities impacted by PFAS. Her research has contributed to the understanding that use of Class B firefighting foams and industrial discharge of PFAS to wastewater treatment plants can be significant sources of water contamination, and that an accumulation of PFAS in surface water foams can pose potential health risks in more highly contaminated water bodies. Her research has also uncovered that local and homegrown foods can contribute to ongoing exposure for PFAS impacted communities where drinking water contamination has been addressed.

Dr. Carignan and GLPAN have been in partnership for six years, and what began as 13 community engaged service projects to provide support for Michigan communities has evolved into engaged research projects to develop new knowledge about PFAS exposure and educational materials for PFAS impacted communities and their clinicians. This partnership has contributed to two scientific publications, with six more scientific publications in review; over 30 invited presentations by Dr. Carignan and GLPAN partners; development of educational materials for PFAS impacted communities, including several fact sheets and a continuing medical education training; and numerous news articles. These activities have been supported in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

For exemplifying the scholarship-guided outreach that MSU is committed to as a land-grant university and their dedication to PFAS impacted communities, Dr. Carignan and GLPAN are highly deserving of the Community Engagement Scholarship Award.

THE PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD



This award is given to faculty who have created innovative teaching environments that enable student learning within and across disciplinary, cultural, and ethnic boundaries.

Tammy Long

The President's Distinguished Teaching Award is supported by an endowment from Carl and Margaret Leidholm.



Plant Biology
College of Natural Science

TAMMY LONG

Dr. Tammy Long is a plant biologist whose teaching and mentoring are deeply influenced by her belief in science as a way of knowing. With energy and enthusiasm, she creates inclusive and innovative learning environments utilizing effective teaching strategies that enable all students to learn science.

Dr. Long's long-running and sustained energy to transform introductory biology education began in 2008 at MSU and remains vibrant to this day. She provides students open conceptual space versus a one-way, right answer approach, mirroring the process of scientific research. Her courses revolve around students learning the most meaningful skills, knowledge, and competencies they need in science and future professions, and she empowers students by sharing responsibility in the classroom, which motivates them to learn.

Dr. Long's creativity in curriculum design and teaching radiates her belief that, "If we truly want to cultivate a nation of problem-solvers, we must allow students opportunities to wrestle with real problems and be rewarded for conceiving creative strategies for solving them.

Our students [at MSU] have shown us they are ready for the challenge." She creates classroom environments that foster interactive, inquiry-based learning and peer instruction, even in large enrollment courses, both in person and remotely, and she drives her instruction with assessment data that is authentic evidence of student learning.

Dr. Long is also a national leader in the scholarship of teaching and learning in biology. Her research program focuses on measuring, assessing, and subsequently promoting meaningful learning in introductory biology. All students who interact with Dr. Long grow their sense of intellectual curiosity and excitement in learning while she provides them with the infrastructure to thrive with skills that are useful inside the walls of the classroom as well as the knowledge of how to excel outside of it.

For her innovative and inclusive teaching, expertise in assessing student learning, and national influence on transforming biology education, Dr. Long is richly deserving of the President's Distinguished Teaching Award.

SIMMONS CHIVUKULA AWARD FOR ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

The Simmons Chivukula Award is given for exemplary work in academic leadership at the rank of department chair, school director, assistant dean, or associate dean. An individual is selected based on consistent and demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, including the dimensions of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Jerry Kooiman **College of Human Medicine**

The Simmons Chivukula Award is generously sponsored by a gift from Dr. Elizabeth H. Simmons (Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UC San Diego, and former MSU Associate Provost for Faculty and Academic Staff Development and former Dean of Lyman Briggs College) and Dr. R. Sekhar Chivukula (Distinguished Professor of Physics at UC San Diego, and former MSU Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and former Dean of Undergraduate Studies).



**Assistant Dean and Chief External Relations Officer
College of Human Medicine**

JERRY KOOIMAN

Jerry Kooiman, assistant dean and chief external relations officer at the MSU College of Human Medicine, epitomizes exceptional leadership and dedication, making him an outstanding candidate for the Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership. Throughout his 16-year tenure at MSU, Mr. Kooiman's transformative impact has been undeniable, shaping the college's trajectory and fostering invaluable partnerships that extend far beyond the confines of academia.

Mr. Kooiman's journey with the College of Human Medicine began with a clear vision of community integration and collaboration. His instrumental role in securing the first grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation laid the foundation for expanding the college's footprint into Flint, personifying his commitment to community-based participatory research. His tireless efforts engaging in over 80 community meetings and collecting extensive feedback underscore his dedication to inclusive decision-making and partnership building.

Mr. Kooiman's leadership extends far beyond Flint, as evidenced by his pivotal role in establishing new campuses across Michigan, including Traverse City, Midland, and Detroit. His ability to forge meaningful connections and navigate complex partnerships has been instrumental in these expansions, enriching both the educational experience and research opportunities for students and faculty alike.

Furthermore, Mr. Kooiman's commitment to diversity and inclusion is exemplified through initiatives such as the Early Assurance Program, aimed at increasing student diversity and accessibility. His advocacy for disadvantaged students and his efforts in negotiating matriculation agreements with numerous institutions underscore his dedication to equity in education.

In addition to his groundbreaking work in community engagement and campus expansion, Mr. Kooiman has been a driving force behind the development of innovative initiatives such as the Grand Rapids Innovation Park. His collaborative approach in bringing together stakeholders, securing funding, and recruiting tenants has been pivotal in shaping this transformative project, marking a significant milestone in advancing health innovation and research.

Mr. Kooiman's leadership extends beyond his formal roles, as evidenced by his active involvement in various committees and strategic planning initiatives at both the college and university levels. His unwavering commitment to collective wisdom and collaboration embodies the spirit of academic leadership, driving meaningful change and fostering a culture of excellence.

In recognition of his exceptional leadership, dedication, and profound impact on the College of Human Medicine and beyond, Jerry Kooiman is unequivocally deserving of the Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership. His legacy of innovation, collaboration, and community engagement serves as an inspiration to us all.

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC STAFF AWARDS

These awards are given to academic specialists and MSU Extension academic staff for extraordinary achievements, excellence, and exceptional contributions in advising, curriculum development, outreach, extension, research, and/or teaching.

Debra Barrett

Dawn Contreras

Amy Pollock

Valeta Wensloff

The Distinguished Academic Staff Awards are supported by the Office of University Advancement at Michigan State University.



Children & Youth Institute
MSU Extension and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

DEBRA BARRETT

Ms. Debra Barrett, senior educator at MSU Extension, has spent the last 35 years leaving an impact on MSU, MSU Extension and communities throughout Michigan and across the country through her work in youth development, career exploration and workforce preparation. She is a mentor and an expert in her field and through collaboration with colleagues and external partners meets local, statewide, national, and international needs.

As a leader within the Children and Youth Institute and MSU Extension, Ms. Barrett has authored or co-authored a variety of curriculum projects focused on educating and preparing youth for a successful future, including lessons and papers on topics ranging from financial fitness and STEM career pathways for youth success, to animal science and volunteerism. She has successfully sought and received over \$500,000 in grant funding to support a variety of projects and programs that reach underserved audiences.

Ms. Barrett has been a speaker at national and international conferences and is known for her high-quality work and personal motivation. She is inspired by connecting with others and is enthusiastic and creative in her approaches to solving any problem. She is trusted among her colleagues who admire her passion, drive for positive change, and willingness to continually advance herself and the organization.

Ms. Barrett has provided additional leadership inside and outside of MSU Extension, including mentoring for new MSU Extension educators, sitting on the MSU Reopening Campus Task Force Youth Programs Work Group, and serving on the Michigan Afterschool Partnership career pathway workstream, among others.

For her commitment to excellence in youth development programming focused on career exploration and workforce preparation, Ms. Barrett is most deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.



**Health and Nutrition Institute
MSU Extension and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

DAWN CONTRERAS

Dr. Dawn Contreras, senior health specialist with MSU Extension, is a national scholar with a 42-year record of excellence in programming, research and outreach. She has also served as assistant professor and adjunct faculty member for the Department of Family and Child Ecology in the College of Social Science for more than 20 years.

Dr. Contreras has extensive campus-based and statewide leadership experiences with MSU. Since 2010, Dr. Contreras has served as a senior health specialist with MSU Extension and was the inaugural Health and Nutrition Institute director. She is a member of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science since 1982 and a member of the multi-state NC-1171 project, which studies individual, family and community factors associated with resilience in diverse, rural, and low-income families.

Dr. Contreras is a highly creative and innovative project manager and grant principal investigator, with an outstanding funding record, including more than \$10 million over the last 11 grants awarded. She has received

grants and conducted research related to several topics, including the opioid crisis in Michigan, sleep interventions and rural health.

Her funding successes have contributed to organizational growth, stability and implementation of her projects.

Dr. Contreras' unparalleled commitment to MSU, MSU Extension, statewide partners and communities, and public health shines through in everything she does, whether she's mentoring new educators or developing curricula that will help Michiganders live healthier lives. She's a talented and dedicated scholar who has left a lasting impression on MSU Extension and the Health and Nutrition Institute.

For her commitment to MSU Extension, the public health of Michigan's communities and commitment to the institution, Dr. Contreras is highly deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.



Chemistry
College of Natural Science

AMY POLLOCK

Dr. Amy Pollock, director of General Chemistry, comes in contact with all 4,000 students who enroll in general chemistry courses at Michigan State University every fall. These courses serve as steppingstones for students with diverse interests and career aspirations, including engineering, natural sciences, and medicine.

Dr. Pollock has an impact on the thousands of students taking MSU's general chemistry courses while overseeing the lecture and laboratory sections, and her students are almost unanimous in their praise for her. One student remarked, "Her welcoming spirit and calm attitude always allowed me to feel very comfortable in her presence. Not once did she ever turn me away."

Dr. Pollock has spent years transforming the general chemistry program, once known as a barrier to student success with high failure rates, into a popular program with greater student success, even garnering national attention. Using a research and evidence-based approach to learning, she transformed both the lecture and lab general chemistry program which required the adoption of a new curriculum with a history of student success and improved student outcomes. This work has helped more than 700 students move on to their next set of courses in the

curriculum every semester. She also works with faculty from other institutions on their own course transformation efforts. One such faculty member shared, "The assistance that Dr. Pollock provides me weekly, in the format of planning meetings, with adapting the materials from MSU...has been invaluable."

Dr. Pollock also oversees a team of instructors, more than 40 teaching assistants, and 30 undergraduate learning assistants. As one of her instructors wrote, "Working with Amy for the last five years has been a wonderful experience for me, thanks to her ability to foster a sense of unity amongst the general chemistry staff. Amy makes sure that every person feels appreciated for the role they play in making general chemistry a success." Dr. Pollock's leadership and service reaches beyond the classroom. She currently serves as an advisory team member for the Department of Chemistry's Association of American Universities grant and has additionally served on nine other committees during her time at MSU.

For her critical leadership and transformation of the general chemistry program and dedication to student success, Dr. Pollock is immensely deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.



**Media and Information
College of Communication Arts and Sciences**

VALETA WENSLOFF

Ms. Valeta Wensloff, undergraduate director and internship coordinator, is a collaborative partner who works with faculty to build out undergraduate curriculum and courses. She oversees the production of courses for the online Strategic Communication Master of Arts program and teaches faculty how to transition to online teaching in addition to teaching courses focused on web design, user research, visual design, and game interfaces.

Ms. Wensloff designs the public-facing graphic assets, including brochures, posters and websites for department programs, grants, publications, events, and community outreach, including the Meaningful Play Conference and the Information Technology minor, among others. She delights in the design work and finding the most efficient way to teach technical information to students who are a bit nervous about technology.

Ms. Wensloff's students find her approachable and kind. One student remarked, "She does an amazing job in assisting you with whatever help is needed and is very patient and understanding in doing so," while another

said, "She actively wants you to learn and is so eager to help." She also serves as the advisor to the MSU Cosplay & Costuming Club.

Ms. Wensloff's service to the university extends beyond the classroom. She has sat on 11 committees, including the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and the Digital Futures University Committee, while also serving as a judge for the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) and the Sudler Prize for the Arts. She has provided talks and presentations like the 2021 presentation, "Fostering Positive Culture in an Online Academic Community" at the MSU Spring Conference on Teaching, Learning, and Student Success, and "Defining Your Digital Presence" in 2019 for students in the Master of Educational Technology program.

For her commitment to developing robust curricula and her ceaseless support of faculty and students, Ms. Wensloff is supremely deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.

EXCELLENCE-IN-TEACHING CITATIONS

These citations are awarded to graduate teaching assistants who have distinguished themselves by the care they have given and the skill they have shown in meeting their classroom responsibilities.

Erica Holt

Tyler Mazon

Enrique Núñez-Mussa

Riley Pizza

Scott Shank

Alyssa Uher

Excellence-in-Teaching Citations are supported by the Office of University Advancement at Michigan State University.



History
College of Social Science

ERICA HOLT

Ms. Erica Holt is a doctoral student in the Department of History and a leader in the field of modern Chinese history. A pioneering teacher who guides students through transformative educational experiences, her teaching philosophy is centered on empowering students as historians with the ability to raise well-developed research questions and explore potential answers with confidence.

Ms. Holt uses her expansive training in areas ranging from classical Chinese language to digital humanities to foster classroom experiences that combine deep scholarly rigor with innovative techniques. She mentors students to select their own course material according to their personal interests and facilitates class meetings where participants teach one another as they synthesize their individual knowledge and conclusions into broad understandings of significant issues and themes.

Ms. Holt teaches history by making students into historians from their first day in the classroom. They formulate research questions, find potential answers that drive new questions, and talk to one another about both the knowledge they gained and the methodology they used. As one student wrote, "One of the most impressive

aspects of Professor Holt's teaching style is her willingness to incorporate student choice into the curriculum. She encourages students to actively contribute their interests and preferences to the class, resulting in a personalized and deeply meaningful educational experience. This approach not only motivated me to delve into topics that genuinely intrigued me but also equipped me with vital skills in critical thinking, research, and self-directed learning."

Ms. Holt's students praise her creative and high-impact classroom activities, but even more importantly, they commend her care and concern for every student. Ms. Holt is the very model of what an educator at a land-grant public institution should be: she dedicates herself to ensuring all knowledge is accessible and all classrooms are inclusive. Her students succeed at the highest levels because she expects no less and she gives them the skills and the support they need to exceed her expectations.

For her exemplary work in motivating, supporting and educating her students, her continued contributions to scholarship, and her dedication to an accessible and inclusive classroom, Ms. Holt is richly deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



College of Music

TYLER MAZONE

Mr. Tyler Mazone is a doctoral student in the College of Music conducting insightful research into music created by composers with disabilities in genres varying from classical and jazz to rock and pop. In his teaching he works to present concepts, skills and information in multiple modes, so all his students have the opportunity to understand, and to do—that is, to express and apply in a tangible way what they are learning.

Mr. Mazone is a skilled and innovative young composer, whose classrooms are active and productive: students sing in class, improvise, analyze music and sample “sound,” which they then import into audio engineering software to create their own pieces. With little or no prior musical training, students in his classes discuss — insightfully and in sophisticated terms — aspects of music that had been entirely foreign to them just weeks earlier. He introduces students to an unfamiliar world of critical music study with a student-centered, engaging, clear and endlessly supportive approach.

Mr. Mazone’s love for teaching and music and endless enthusiasm is infectious, and students get caught up in the energy of the class. He brings a perspective and a concomitant approach to a classroom that is uniquely his. As a deaf music student, Mr. Mazone has also cultivated a skill that all musicians work to develop — “hearing” a score without the benefit of sound just by reading the music. This skill helps him to discuss with students the architecture of a work, issues of pitch combination, density, texture and timbral combinations, and technical challenges to individual instruments or voices. As one of his composition students remarked, “I wish I could hear what Tyler hears.”

For his skill and dedication as a teacher and his promise and accomplishment as a composer, Mr. Mazone is most deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



**School of Journalism
College of Communication Arts and Sciences**

ENRIQUE NÚÑEZ-MUSSA

Mr. Enrique Núñez-Mussa is a doctoral student in the School of Journalism whose funded research and 10 scholarly papers have revealed new insights and explored critical journalistic issues, including misinformation in media, fact checking, media performance in democratic contexts and more. His teaching philosophy is focused on student-centered learning experiences, and he views his courses as conversations with an emphasis on active listening and dialogue between students and the instructor.

Mr. Núñez-Mussa is an innovative teacher, journalist, and scholar dedicated to teaching the whole student – from their professional preparation to their intellectual, ethical, and emotional development. He has developed a broad pedagogical range, and as one student nominator said, “He taught us about aperture and shutter speed but also how to be great and honest journalists.” Students describe him as passionate, with engaging and enjoyable courses, and a “superb professor who provided the best feedback I have ever received on any work throughout academia and in personal life.”

Mr. Núñez-Mussa is already the winner of two national Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) teaching awards: first place in the teaching competition of AEJMC’s International Communication Division in 2022 and first place in Innovations in Teaching from AEJMC’s Visual Communication Division. He is lauded for creating clear, creative, and challenging assignments and learning experiences.

Mr. Núñez-Mussa is also a promising and consequential scholar. His research program is fresh and intellectually exciting, plumbing how journalists and others create meaning as they try to explain why and how things happen in the social and material world. Enthusiastic about collaborating, Núñez-Mussa has developed research relationships with scholars from MSU and around the world.

For his teaching innovation, his care and compassion for his students, and for his contributions to research, Mr. Núñez-Mussa is exceedingly deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



Plant Biology
College of Natural Science

RILEY PIZZA

Riley Pizza is a doctoral student in the Department of Plant Biology with a passion for science who has empowered their students to see that they too can be successful in science. Pizza used their research in the field of ecology with a focus on restoring prairie ecosystems to help their students learn about the process of science. Their teaching philosophy emphasizes giving students opportunities to learn how to learn, fostering the growth of their self-efficacy, and empowering them to become responsible for their own learning.

Pizza has been recognized by co-instructors and students for their passion for science and for the enthusiasm they bring to the classroom. They effectively communicate complex concepts in a way that students find clear and accessible, while cultivating an environment where students feel comfortable.

Pizza is much more than a lecturer and used teaching techniques that simplified often complex courses. One student noted, "I am a returning MSU student and former teacher and my experience in the profession

has given me the ability to confidently say, that just being a lecturer does not work. That is where Riley was able to shine, and the constant hands-on experiences made a difference. I can truly say, that for many students who were not in Plant Biology such as myself, this style of teaching was what made it possible for us to succeed in a complicated class."

Pizza's work also goes beyond the classroom. They have been the primary author of two publications, one studying seed source locality measures and the other examining seed cultivation and plant fitness. Pizza was also a co-author of a publication exploring peer review bias and how it perpetuates barriers for historically excluded groups. Additionally, since 2018 Pizza has given 10 presentations on a diverse range of subject areas related to ecology, biology and more.

For their passion for teaching, commitment to helping students succeed, and for their scholarly contributions, Riley Pizza is deeply deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



Communication
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

SCOTT SHANK

Mr. Scott Shank is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication and brings years of real-world experience to his teaching and scholarship in organizational communication. His understanding of workplace behaviors and normative practices from both theory and research experience has helped make him one of the most promising scholars in the field. His teaching philosophy is driven by a desire to help students develop the knowledge and skills needed to self-actualize, leverage opportunities, and positively impact their world.

Mr. Shank's commitment to pedagogical innovation is evident in his efforts to incorporate novel technology into the learning experience. From producing weekly debate-focused podcasts to introducing peer-annotation software and video-based interview projects, he ensures that his students are not just educated but also equipped with practical skills for their professional journeys. His time working in and across various university, healthcare, and religious institutions has uniquely positioned him as someone who understands both the theory and the practice of organizational communication from multiple perspectives, allowing him to make a significant contribution to the theoretical understanding of organizational communication across his teaching and research.

Mr. Shank's impact is felt across every level of the undergraduate specialization in

organizational communication. Students value his ability to connect theory with tangible, real-life application. Testimonials highlight not only his effectiveness in the classroom but also his support beyond academic pursuits. "I have been able to rely on him for support in the professional aspects of my life," one student noted. "He has helped prepare for my career in sales," another said. His mentorship extends to navigating challenges like statistical analysis, stalled research projects, and navigating group dynamics, far beyond the typical teaching role.

Mr. Shank's academic research is also exceptional, having been invited to present his research at national and international conferences, in addition to contributions in eight publications. One colleague even described him as an "instructional workhorse" and commended his, "instructional effectiveness, innovative approaches to teaching, and scholarly promise." His impact extends beyond the classroom, leaving an indelible mark on the academic and professional journeys of those around him.

In recognition of his creative and innovative pedagogical approaches, profound understanding of organizational communication's theoretical and practical nuances, and his unwavering support for students, Mr. Shank is highly deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



**Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Education
College of Education**

ALYSSA UHER

Ms. Alyssa Uher is a doctoral student in the Special Education program in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education. Ms. Uher has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of special education and applied behavior analysis, and she has published critical manuscripts providing guidance in the fields of special education and applied behavior analysis on how to teach in more culturally competent ways. Her dissertation research examines the inclusion of disability studies content in special education courses of the nation's top teacher preparation programs which will provide critical insights into teachers' understanding of disability and inclusion. Her teaching philosophy centers on fostering a dynamic learning environment that encourages critical questioning and embraces diversity.

Ms. Uher has transformed how the university prepares future generations of teachers in inclusion, equity and special education, and her pedagogy centers the voices of disenfranchised groups. For Ms. Uher, inclusion is more than access to content or location, it includes an awareness that every student under a teacher's care deserves instruction that honors and values their

uniqueness. This critical perspective that challenges deficit-driven views of disability has allowed her students to reconsider their own views of disability and feel validated. As one student said, "I also want to thank you for the incredible way you have incorporated what is just and right into every single moment you are present. I felt so seen and safe just during your intro slides this semester."

Ms. Uher identifies with a disability, and in sharing aspects of her own life, she facilitates conversations and makes explicit instructional actions that challenge exclusion, oppression, or indifference while modeling an equity pedagogy. As another student stated, "To see someone with authority be vulnerable about their disability status really opened my eyes to the fact that disability is not always the extreme cases."

For her transformative teaching about diversity, caring and supportive approach to fostering a safe classroom environment, and commitment to promoting an equity perspective for future educators at MSU, Ms. Uher is deeply deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



**Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
College of Engineering**

ALEXANDRA ZEVALKINK

Dr. Alexandra Zevalkink holds the C. Robert and Kathryn M. Weir Endowed Associate Professorship for extraordinary devotion to and skill in teaching. She joined the Chemical Engineering and Materials Science department in 2016 as assistant professor, and her 2014 Ph.D. from Caltech in Materials Science and Engineering led to her highly respected research and leadership in the International Thermoelectric Society.

Dr. Zevalkink's skill as an instructor is reflected in her consistently high student ratings. She is able to help students experience "Eureka!" moments as they learn by using clear logical and pedagogical paths while also enabling an active learning environment. Prior students all state that she explains the subject matter with exceptional clarity using multiple means and has an infectious enthusiasm for the subject that reaches all students and inspires them to understand and apply this knowledge in their engineering work.

Dr. Zevalkink also cares deeply for students with patience and kindness. She is responsive,

consistently seeks their feedback, provides a stress-free environment for learning, and encourages students to go beyond their expectations. She strengthens students' independent thinking and communication skills by having them use outside resources to teach and inspire others to learn and appreciate the course-related material and explain its importance in engineering for societal benefit.

Dr. Zevalkink most often teaches practical quantum mechanics, an increasingly important and necessary tool for designing materials that enable novel and innovative product design. Her ability to teach a difficult course well hugely impacts student success, making accessible a subject that leads to products that benefit our society, our environment, and the economy.

For her immeasurable commitment to student success and ensuring the futures of MSU's graduates, Dr. Zevalkink is most deserving of the Donald F. Koch Award for Quality in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

FACULTY EMERITI ASSOCIATION AWARD

In recognition of Outstanding Contributions by an Individual or
Team of Faculty

Paul Cooke

This award recognizes an individual MSU Faculty Emeritus or Emerita or a team of Emeriti faculty who following retirement have served the university community through contributions to a unit or program.



Communicative Sciences and Disorders
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

PAUL COOKE

In recognition of his unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions to the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders (CSD) in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University, the Faculty Emeriti Association proudly presents Dr. Paul Cooke with the Outstanding Contributions by an Individual Award for the year 2023.

Dr. Cooke's illustrious career spans over three decades, during which he played a pivotal role in establishing and nurturing the renowned CSD study abroad program. Since its inception in 1985, Dr. Cooke has been the driving force behind this transformative experience, guiding countless students through immersive educational journeys in the British Isles. Despite retiring in 2014, Dr. Cooke's commitment to the program has remained steadfast, demonstrating his unwavering passion for enriching the lives of students.

Under Dr. Cooke's leadership, the CSD study abroad program has flourished, offering students unparalleled opportunities to explore diverse clinical settings and cultural landscapes. His meticulous planning, tireless dedication, and deep connections within the profession have ensured the program's continued success, earning recognition as the longest consecutive running overseas program in speech and language pathology in the United States. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Dr. Cooke

worked tirelessly to renew relationships with clinics and hospitals still reeling from the effects of the pandemic and recreate the high-quality educational experience from before.

Beyond his role as a program director, Dr. Cooke's impact on students transcends borders. His genuine care for their growth and development is evident in the personal connections he fosters and the mentorship he provides. Students consistently praise Dr. Cooke for his ability to inspire, empower, and shape their professional aspirations, instilling in them a profound appreciation for the field of communicative sciences and disorders.

Dr. Cooke's contributions extend beyond the confines of academia, as he actively promotes global citizenship and cultural understanding among students. Through his visionary leadership, Dr. Cooke has helped cultivate a community of lifelong learners who are equipped to navigate the complexities of an interconnected world.

In honoring Dr. Paul Cooke with this award, the Faculty Emeriti Association acknowledges his outstanding achievements, enduring legacy, and profound impact on the MSU community. His dedication to excellence and unwavering commitment to student success exemplify the highest ideals of academic leadership and service.

ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS COMMITTEES

William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Awards+◆

John Aerni-Flessner	Xuefei Huang
Peter De Costa	Anne Hughes
Patricia Edwards	Camelia Suleiman
Marcia Gordon	George Sundin
LaShawn Harris	Felicia Wu

Teacher-Scholar Awards+◆

Henry (Rique) Campa III	Scott D. Farver
Katie Clements	Carl (Alex) Matisse
Frank Duarte	Kennedy Poeszat
Omowumi (Funmbi) Elemo	

Community Engagement Scholarship Award★

Farha Abbasi	Louise Jezierski
Rhonda Conner-Warren	Gail Richmond
Asia Downtin	Wenona Singel
Peter Glendinning	Aklilu Zeleke

Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership♥

Marilyn Amey	Victor DiRita
Glenn Chambers	Mary Finn
Kirk Dormer	

Distinguished Academic Staff Awards+◆

Bess German	Brandon Schroeder
Lauren McKenzie	Jodi Schulz
Stanley Moore	Cheryl Williams-Hecksell

Excellence-in-Teaching Citations+◆

Kevin Cabrera	Brian Pentland
Sharlyn Ferguson-Johnson	Amy Radford-Popp
Sachi Horibata	Brooke Van Loh

Donald F. Koch Award for Quality in Undergraduate Teaching+◆

Claire Lepkowski	Chinyere P. Tobias
Ryan McNeill	Mario Schabus
Kune Park	Shaoming Yang
Peter Thompson	

Faculty Emeriti Association Awards●

Fred Derksen	David Long
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- ★ Kwesi Brookins, Acting Ex-Officio Chairperson
- ◆ Marilyn Amey, Ex-Officio Chairperson
- ♥ Cindi Leverich, Ex-Officio Chairperson
- ◆ Katie Rundblad, Faculty Honorifics Coordinator
- John Baker, Chairperson