

ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS 2026

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

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ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS CEREMONY

April 2026

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

Robert F. Banks Awards for Institutional Leadership

Donald F. Koch Award for Quality in Undergraduate Teaching

Faculty Emeriti Association Awards 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.

Thomas Berding

Laura Chomiuk

Sean Crosson

Kevin Elliott

Songqing Jin

Mary Juzwik

Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia

Yadu Pokhrel

Stephanie Watts

Elise Zipkin

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. Thomas Berding
2. Laura Chomiuk
3. Sean Crosson
4. Kevin Elliott
5. Songqing Jin





2



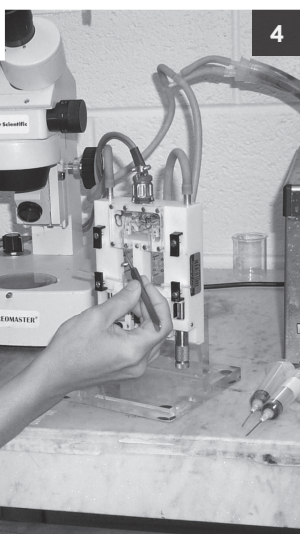
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5

1. Mary Juzwik
2. Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia
3. Yadu Pokhrel
4. Stephanie Watts
5. Elise Zipkin







**Art, Art History, and Design
College of Arts and Letters**

THOMAS BERDING

Mr. Thomas Berding is an accomplished painter, an inspiring teacher, a passionate arts advocate, and an outstanding mentor to his colleagues at MSU and around the nation. A widely recognized artist, Mr. Berding is known for his ebullient and poetic use of material that, according to one critic, “reflects the rhythm of our times.”

A recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Award in Painting and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award, his work has been exhibited in more than 80 venues including the University of Maine Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, Nelson-Atkins Museum, Rochester Institute of Technology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Art Chicago International Art Fair and The Painting Center in New York among many others. In addition to an impressive record of exhibitions, presentations, lectures, and publications, he is also sought after and a frequent visiting artist and critic at other universities.

As an educator, Mr. Berding has mentored both undergraduate and graduate students who have gone on to accomplished careers as artists and prestigious positions as teachers themselves. His students are effusive in their praise of his passion, knowledge, and ability to cultivate everyone’s personal and artistic growth. As noted, in the words of one student, Professor Berding “showed me ways in which painting could expand both my sensitivity to

the world around me and the world within me.”

In addition to his dedication to teaching and maintaining an active career as a studio artist, Mr. Berding has an extensive service record. He has been a passionate advocate for the visual arts through his involvement in national and international leading arts organizations, and within MSU. His eight-year service as chair of the Department of Art, Art History, and Design stands as one of the periods of the largest growth and transformative development in the department’s history.

At the national level, Mr. Berding has served on the College Art Association’s Professional Practices and Services to Artists Committees, where, among other duties, he co-chaired a committee responsible for reviewing and revising guidelines for the MFA in Art and Design, the terminal degree in the field. He was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Arts Administrators from 2013-17. Mr. Berding has also served as an external evaluator of nearly 50 promotion and tenure cases and has conducted several program reviews at other leading universities.

Across all his pursuits, Mr. Berding has shown generosity and a commitment to excellence that is most deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



**Physics and Astronomy
College of Natural Science**

LAURA CHOMIUK

Dr. Laura Chomiuk is a ground-breaking scientist who has revolutionized whole areas of astronomy while serving as an outstanding mentor to a vast number of students. She and her research group have made fundamental discoveries in multiple areas of astronomy, including revolutionary work on classical novae, which are some of the oldest known observational phenomena. She has also completed fundamental work in other areas of the field, including the origin of supernovae and black holes in globular clusters.

Dr. Chomiuk is held in high regard nationally and internationally. In the past year, she has been awarded a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and appointed to the penultimate time assignment committee for the Roman Space Telescope, NASA's next great observatory to follow the James Webb Space Telescope. These are the latest examples of her high level of recognition, which include her ongoing service on the National Academies' Committee on Radio Frequencies, and her earlier National Science Foundation CAREER and Research Corporation Cottrell Scholar Awards.

Dr. Chomiuk's mentoring and service are equally outstanding as her research. In a field in which most research groups are modest in size, Dr. Chomiuk has mentored over 100 undergraduate students since arriving at MSU in 2013. This is in addition to serving on more than 20 Ph.D. thesis

committees and supervising many postdoctoral researchers.

For the undergraduates, Dr. Chomiuk mastered providing experiential learning opportunities through authentic astronomical research, primarily by founding and running the MSU Observatory Research Program. She also co-founded the Physics and Astronomy Research Experience for Drew Scholars, which offers paid summer research experience for astronomy or physics undergraduate majors from backgrounds historically underrepresented in STEM.

In all areas of mentoring, Dr. Chomiuk is thoughtful and dedicated. She embraces a growth mindset for herself and everyone in her group, inspiring others to believe in themselves and their capacity to learn and grow.

Within her department, Dr. Chomiuk also set the standard for developing more inclusive faculty search policies and procedures. One example is championing community impact statements to gauge how candidates have positively impacted the communities where they worked. Additionally, she led the department in creating valuable and effective hiring rubrics.

For her groundbreaking research, outstanding mentorship, and positive impact on students and colleagues, Dr. Chomiuk is richly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



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

SEAN CROSSON

Dr. Sean Crosson, a Rudolph Hugh Endowed Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Genetics, and Immunology, is a world expert in microbial signal transduction and physiology. With appointments in the College of Natural Science, College of Veterinary Medicine, and MSU AgBioResearch, he holds broad expertise in microbiology and is a leading researcher at MSU studying fundamental aspects of bacterial physiology and pathogenesis.

Trained as a structural biologist, Dr. Crosson's early research, which continues today, explores the molecular mechanism of how bacteria sense and respond to their environment using the bacterium *Caulobacter crescentus* as a model system.

He later expanded his research program to study the bacterial pathogen *Brucella*, which causes brucellosis in livestock. When Dr. Crosson and his group started researching this pathogen, no genetic tools to modify it existed, but such limitations did not deter him. Using his knowledge of the related bacterium *Caulobacter*, he quickly developed genetic tools that allowed him to explore fundamental questions about *Brucella* and share this knowledge with others in the field. His research lab has published over 120 peer-reviewed papers and invited reviews, and the impact of his work is evident in the many invited seminars he gives worldwide.

Beyond his profound research, Dr. Crosson is an exceptional mentor, guiding students in various stages of their journey. He has trained an impressive number of Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows throughout his academic career, and many of these individuals have gone on to become successful scientific investigators.

Dr. Crosson is an active leader in the American Society of Microbiology and is now a governor of the American Academy of Microbiology, where he was elected as a member in 2017. He was also elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2023 and an American Society of Microbiology Distinguished Lecturer from 2023-2025. Dr. Crosson is active in service at MSU as well, on the University Council, Faculty Senate, College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Search committee, and many faculty search and administrative committees in the department.

Recently, Dr. Crosson stepped up to take over as director of graduate students in his department when a beloved colleague passed away. He's helping to lead and mentor students in one of the largest graduate departments at MSU.

For his creative research, selfless leadership, dedicated service, and guidance to students across the academic spectrum, Dr. Crosson is highly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



**Fisheries and Wildlife
Lyman Briggs College**

KEVIN ELLIOTT

Dr. Kevin Elliott, a Red Cedar Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, is an internationally recognized leader in ethical and philosophical issues in environmental health. In addition to teaching in the Department of Philosophy, he holds a cross-appointment in Fisheries and Wildlife. His scholarship examines the roles that ethical and social values play in scientific research, particularly in policy-relevant areas of environmental science. Additionally, Dr. Elliott has studied the influence of financial conflicts of interest in research, ethical challenges in science communication, and collaborative authorship practices within scientific teams.

Several milestones further advanced Dr. Elliott's scholarship and reputation in 2025. He serves as director of the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications section of a new National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at MSU through the National Institutes of Health, which was approved for \$15 million in funding. He also has two co-edited volumes forthcoming in 2026, including the Routledge Handbook of Values and Science, which will further solidify his leadership in the field. In addition, he was selected as co-chair of the Program Committee for the 2027 meeting of the Congress for Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science and Technology in Kobe, Japan.

As a faculty member of Lyman Briggs College (LBC), Dr. Elliott closely integrates his

research and undergraduate teaching. Two of his monographs and one co-edited book introduce key philosophical literature on values in science. In the classroom, he fosters an inclusive environment while helping students explore how values shape the questions scientists ask and the knowledge they produce.

In 2024, Dr. Elliott was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and received the Humboldt Research Award. He is also engaged in significant service to MSU and the broader scholarly community. In addition to serving on numerous committees in his department and college, Dr. Elliott completed a five-year term as Faculty Excellence Advocate for LBC. In this role, he promoted equitable hiring practices and advocated for an inclusive academic climate, developing a yearlong training for the college's Teacher-Scholar Postdoctoral Fellows program that is designed to support the recruitment and development of a more diverse cohort of early-career faculty.

For his leadership in examining how values influence environmental science, his dedication to engaging expansive audiences in important conversations, and his contributions to national discussions of pressing environmental health issues, Dr. Kevin Elliott is highly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



**Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

SONGQING JIN

Dr. Songqing Jin, a professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics (AFRE), centers his research on key development issues confronting rural households and communities in developing countries. His research shows how rural institutions, technological innovation and dissemination, and policy reforms affect economic development.

Dr. Jin is known as a global leader in research on the economics of farmland property rights and agricultural research. He develops models of rural household land investments and participation in land rental markets in developing countries where land tenure insecurity is prevalent, and land rental is widely restrictive. He uses cutting-edge econometrics methods and primary survey data on rural households that he and his collaborators collect in China, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Tanzania, and Vietnam. Dr. Jin's analysis is widely published in leading global journals in development and agricultural economics, and the policy implications of his work are widely disseminated and used by developing country governments and multilateral institutions like the World Bank.

Training students and mentoring diverse young scholars from many countries is an essential part of Dr. Jin's program. He is a key instructor in the AFRE graduate program, teaching the capstone course that he designed in the department's most popular Ph.D. field. As such,

he has influenced well over a hundred Ph.D. students in the past 10 years, in addition to the 55 students he advised as a committee member and the 12 graduate students for whom he has served as a major advisor since 2008. Dr. Jin's commitment to mentoring is further reflected in the fact that half of his publications have been co-authored with his students or those he has advised.

Dr. Jin's stellar academic reputation makes him highly sought after for professional service. He was a past chair of the China Section of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association. He served as an associate editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and has also been invited to serve as an incoming associate editor of *Food Policy*, the top journal in food economics. Furthermore, Dr. Jin is a reviewer for the National Science Foundation, the National Science Foundation of China, and the Swiss National Science Foundation. He was elected twice by his department peers to serve on AFRE's department Advisory Committee. He is also an affiliated faculty member and serves on the advisory committee for an array of organizations.

For his strong research reputation, national and international prominence as a scholar, and dedication to mentoring learners, Dr. Jin is most deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Teacher Education
College of Education

MARY JUZWIK

Dr. Mary Juzwik is internationally recognized as a dynamic force in and beyond the field of English education. She is particularly known for her transformative, interdisciplinary work on dialogic teaching and writing and innovative inquiries into the ways religion and religious ethnonationalism are impacting English teaching and learning in U.S. public schools. Colleagues hail Dr. Juzwik's work on religion and education as among the "most urgent and sophisticated being done in our field today," as one colleague testified, "contributing not only to scholarship but to current public discourse."

Dr. Juzwik's award-winning teaching record has further expanded her impact across programs. She models generosity and collaborative intellectual partnership with students and colleagues alike, writing with graduate and undergraduate students for leading venues in the field. As one colleague put it, "her deep mentoring of doctoral students has resulted in an exceptional record of scholarly capacity building in the field."

Dr. Juzwik's interdisciplinary research has earned widespread recognition in the social sciences and humanities, with her publications being highly and increasingly cited by scholars and practitioners around the world. Her work has contributed to improving English language arts classroom instruction through funded research projects such as those culminating in her book for teachers, *Inspiring Dialogue: Talking to Learn in the English Classroom*. It translates

interdisciplinary research into practical teaching interventions that benefit schools and students. Her ability to bridge academic research and theory with real-world impact both advances and exemplifies MSU's mission of research excellence and societal benefit.

Courageously addressing some of the most pressing educational issues of our times, Dr. Juzwik's intellectual leadership has made an impact locally and state-wide, as well as nationally and internationally. Her editorial leadership has been particularly impactful in her field, including her exemplary work co-editing *Research in the Teaching of English*, the flagship journal in her field. She also recently co-founded and currently co-directs the MSU Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum for Gen Alpha teacher fellowship program for Michigan educators. This learning community brings Michigan teachers together to collaboratively study and innovate new approaches to teaching and learning about genocide, amid swiftly changing contemporary cultural forces (e.g., ethnoreligious nationalist movements, the rise of generative artificial intelligence).

Dr. Juzwik's innovative approaches to English education research, dedication to mentoring the next generations of scholars, and contributions to teaching practice and flourishing public schools and classrooms exemplify the qualities celebrated by the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



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

LISA LINNENBRINK-GARCIA

Dr. Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in educational psychology. Her pioneering work has significantly advanced understanding of how motivation and emotion interact to shape student learning, engagement, and persistence, particularly in STEM fields. Her research informs interventions that foster inclusive learning environments and support the success of all students to broaden and build the STEM workforce.

Her scholarly impact is profound: she has secured over \$10 million in federal funding from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, published more than 95 peer-reviewed works, and ranks among the top 20 most productive educational psychologists globally. She is a Fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the American Educational Research Association and served as co-editor of *Educational Psychologist*, helping elevate the journal to the top ranking in its field.

Dr. Linnenbrink-Garcia is deeply committed to educating the next generation of scholars. She is a highly sought-after classroom instructor and mentor who provides students at all levels, from undergraduate through post-doctoral, with high-quality classroom and research experience. The success of

her approach is visible in her students' achievements, who have earned numerous accolades and taken top-tier faculty and industry positions around the world.

Dr. Linnenbrink-Garcia's work bridges research and practice through her engagement with the community. For instance, she developed the Motivation – Planning Lessons to Activate eNgagement in Science (M-PLANS) professional learning program for middle school science teachers and has developed several programs supporting undergraduate success in college. She also provides national leadership on STEM education through her service as a chair and panelist on numerous federal grant reviews.

Through her scholarship, mentorship, and service, Dr. Linnenbrink-Garcia exemplifies the values of the institution's land-grant mission and is a highly deserving recipient of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Civil & Environmental Engineering
College of Engineering

YADU POKHREL

Dr. Yadu Pokhrel, a Red Cedar Distinguished Professor in the College of Engineering, is an internationally recognized leader in large-scale water cycle modeling, renowned for his pioneering integration of human-water interactions, such as irrigation, groundwater extraction, and reservoir operations, into Earth system models. His innovative research addresses critical societal challenges at the nexus of global food, energy, and water security.

Over the past two decades, he has developed advanced hydrological models that have been widely adopted by research groups and agencies worldwide, including the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. His work has provided first-of-its-kind insights into groundwater depletion, dam impacts on ecosystems and communities, and climate-driven water stress, with findings published in over 120 peer-reviewed articles, including more than 20 in top interdisciplinary journals such as *Nature*, *Science*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Dr. Pokhrel is highly regarded by his peers both nationally and internationally. His early work attributing the previously unexplained gap in global sea level rise to long-term groundwater extraction received widespread scientific and public attention, appearing in *Nature Geoscience* and extensively covered by international media.

At MSU, Dr. Pokhrel has secured grants from the National Science Foundation, NASA, the U.S. Department of State, and private foundations, leading interdisciplinary projects that address global water challenges while providing substantial international training opportunities for students.

His mentorship has enabled undergraduates and graduate students to gain hands-on experience in international research settings, fostering the next generation of global scholars. Dr. Pokhrel has also contributed significantly to university initiatives, including serving as associate director of MSU's Asia Hub, co-directing the Center for Intelligent Water Resources Engineering, and engaging with the MSU Water Alliance and the Environmental Science and Policy Program.

In addition to his research and educational impact, Dr. Pokhrel has provided outstanding service to the profession. He has coordinated major international initiatives, such as the Global Water Sector of the InterSectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project, served as associate editor for multiple high-profile journals, and actively contributed to leading scientific societies, including AGU, EGU, and JpGU. His leadership, international engagement, and contributions to scholarship, policy, and student development exemplify the highest standards of academic excellence.



**Pharmacology and Toxicology
College of Osteopathic Medicine**

STEPHANIE WATTS

Dr. Stephanie Watts is a professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. She has spent her entire 30-year academic career at MSU. Throughout that time, Dr. Watts has been at the forefront of biomedical research in serotonin biology and signaling and perivascular adipose tissue function. Her work demonstrates a pioneering approach, exploring questions others have overlooked while leading a highly productive research team conducting cutting-edge studies.

Dr. Watts's pioneering and sustained contributions to cardiovascular pharmacology center on two key areas: serotonin biology and signaling, and perivascular adipose tissue function. Her groundbreaking research has fundamentally reshaped the understanding of vascular regulation and disease and has become integral to 21st-century cardiovascular research. Her scholarship is recognized internationally for both its originality and its translational impact.

In addition to serving as principal investigator or program director for National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants totaling approximately \$20 million, Dr. Watts has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to teaching and mentorship. She has guided a remarkable cohort of undergraduate students and doctoral trainees, many of whom have earned or are pursuing Ph.D. degrees.

When the NIH announced a new initiative to support innovative graduate training programs, Dr. Watts spearheaded MSU's successful effort to compete for and receive one of 17 Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) awards.

Dr. Watts has also provided significant leadership and service at MSU. As assistant dean in the Graduate School, she developed a program focused on the Responsible Conduct of Research. In her role as director of the PHM/TOX minor, she created mechanisms to make it easier for students to learn about and enroll in minor programs. She is currently helping develop collaborations between MSU and the Henry Ford Health System.

As a transformative leader and advocate for biomedical sciences, Dr. Watts has elevated standards for scientific integrity, diversity, and professional development across the field. She has long-standing service to the American Physiological Society, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and all three organizations have awarded her the fellow designation.

For her unwavering commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and service, and for her work advancing fundamental knowledge in cardiovascular pharmacology, Dr. Watts is highly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.



Integrative Biology
College of Natural Science

ELISE ZIPKIN

Dr. Elise Zipkin turns urgent questions about the health of wild animals and communities into reliable answers. A world-class scholar and an outstanding teacher, mentor, and graduate program leader, her work focuses on whether populations are declining, why they are declining, and which actions can change their trajectory.

In 2025 alone, Dr. Zipkin published papers on populations and communities of butterflies, shorebirds, chimpanzees, and elephants, including two high-impact papers that documented sharp declines in butterfly populations in the U.S. in recent decades, which received extensive press coverage. Her problem-first approach, and the innovative methods it inspires, have resolved open questions of national and international significance.

Beyond discovery, Dr. Zipkin broadens impact through open and engaged research. Her team shares well-documented software and code so others can apply modern models; she partners with agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service on real-world conservation problems; and communicates results clearly to public audiences, including a 2025 interview on NPR's Science Friday about her study on butterfly declines. This combination of scholarly influence, practical adoption, and thoughtful public communication underscores the credibility and reach of her research.

At MSU, Dr. Zipkin has modernized graduate training and developed programs that enable students and collaborators to conduct impactful science. The quantitative graduate curriculum in the Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Program (EEB) now emphasizes hands-on, reproducible data analysis, modern statistical modeling, and clear communication of uncertainty. As director of EEB, she has expanded graduate support, launched competitive fellowships, seeded cross-unit research, and fostered inclusive initiatives such as Envision EEB and a science-communication fellowship, thereby strengthening MSU's research community. Her mentoring has produced a deep bench of quantitatively trained scientists who now contribute across academia, government, and non-profit organizations across the nation.

Dr. Zipkin is a driven, high-energy, engaged leader who is implementing innovative programs, and she is highly supportive of both her students and her colleagues. In addition to her EEB roles, Dr. Zipkin is well-engaged nationally, from serving on the editorial boards of major journals to National Academies service.

For her nationally and internationally influential research in biodiversity conservation, her training of the next generation across industries, and her university leadership that strengthens our impact, Dr. Zipkin is highly 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.

Alexandra Allweiss

Vivian Aranda-Hughes

Jean Hardy

Thea Knowles

Justin Simard

Caroline Szczepanski

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



Teacher Education
College of Education

ALEXANDRA ALLWEISS

Dr. Alexandra Allweiss is an assistant professor of global, comparative, and international education in the Department of Teacher Education. Her scholarship is situated at the intersections of comparative and international education, decolonial and critical feminist theories, youth studies, curriculum studies, anthropology of education, and teacher education. Her work has contributed to understanding how global structures and systems impact the lives and education of young people; the ways youth, educators, and communities resist and challenge these structures and systems and reimagine education; and transformative global approaches to curriculum and teacher education.

Across her work, Dr. Allweiss bridges national and international contexts, advancing research that critiques global racial power inequities and centers decolonial theories to expose how modernity, coloniality, racial capitalism, and gender shape educational policies, practices, and experiences across time and space. Dr. Allweiss's scholarship draws on ethnographic and critical qualitative methods to center the experiences of marginalized communities and struggles for sovereignty and justice.

Her research with the Maya Chuj nation in Guatemala and the Chuj diaspora is built on a relationship that spans more than 17 years. Recent research draws on 18 months of multi-sited, transnational ethnographic fieldwork to

examine the ways current policies and processes interact and shape the lives, educational trajectories, and organizing work of indigenous Maya Chuj youth and educators in Guatemala and the U.S.

As an educational scholar, she connects her research and teaching closely. Dr. Allweiss has contributed to scholarship on anti-imperialist, decolonial feminist, transnational, and intersectional approaches to teacher education that connect theory and practice for educational justice.

Students describe her as a dedicated educator who engages in innovative critical pedagogies and centers diverse perspectives in her courses. They also refer to her classroom as a space of deep and meaningful learning. Dr. Allweiss's colleagues have praised her innovative curricular design and contributions to the department and college. Not only is she a dedicated mentor, but she also provides guidance characterized by her critical care and decolonial feminist approach, which has supported students personally and professionally.

For her expansive transdisciplinary expertise, critical scholarship, innovative and creative teaching, and impactful service to our university community and beyond, Dr. Allweiss is most deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



Criminal Justice
College of Social Science

VIVIAN ARANDA-HUGHES

Dr. Vivian Aranda-Hughes is an assistant professor in the School of Criminal Justice and a rising leader in carceral studies. Her work focuses on corrections, personnel well-being, victimization across the life course, and the intersections of gender, race, and institutional harm. Drawing on interdisciplinary training in criminology, sociology, and psychology, she advances empirically grounded, policy-relevant knowledge that informs both scholarship and reform in criminal justice institutions.

Dr. Aranda-Hughes's research centers on vulnerable populations and highlights the human consequences of criminal justice policy. She has built a strong and growing research portfolio, with more than 20 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals. Her work examines the psychological, organizational, and social implications of restrictive housing, carceral labor, and intergenerational violence. She is among a small number of scholars worldwide producing empirical research on women in solitary confinement, a critical and significantly underexamined area.

Dr. Aranda-Hughes is currently the principal investigator of a funded study evaluating the Colorado Clean Slate Act's effects on reintegration and equity, and she served as a co-investigator on a Grand Challenges initiative to establish an Indigenous-led center to prevent youth violence on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. These projects reflect her

commitment to community-centered, policy-relevant research.

Students consistently describe her courses as intellectually rigorous and engaging, praising her ability to set high expectations while fostering learning environments that connect research to real-world justice issues. She has advised graduate theses and capstone projects across multiple institutions and currently chairs a doctoral guidance committee at MSU.

Dr. Aranda-Hughes regularly engages undergraduate and graduate students in her research, supporting their development in ethical inquiry, methodological rigor, and community partnership. Several of her mentees have gone on to Ph.D. programs or research positions in justice-focused policy organizations.

At MSU, Dr. Aranda-Hughes serves on the School of Criminal Justice Bachelor's Program Committee and chairs a doctoral guidance committee. She also serves on the editorial board for Criminal Justice and Behavior and reviews for leading journals in the field. Her expertise is frequently sought by both academic and public audiences.

For her attention to policy-relevant questions, commitment to evidence-based approaches to correctional practice, and ability to inspire and engage students, Dr. Aranda-Hughes is most deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



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

JEAN HARDY

Dr. Jean Hardy is an assistant professor in the Department of Media and Information, where his teaching and research explore how technology, design, and social structures shape everyday life.

Dr. Hardy's scholarship examines the social and cultural dimensions of digital technologies, particularly their impact on rural communities and marginalized groups. He is the founder and director of the Rural Computing Research Consortium at MSU, where undergraduate and graduate students collaborate on community-engaged research addressing digital equity and innovation beyond urban centers.

His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the Spencer Foundation and recognized with multiple best paper awards from premier venues such as the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI).

Dr. Hardy teaches through the media and information curriculum, offering both foundational and advanced courses that reach hundreds of students each year.

Through his courses and lab supervision, undergraduates gain hands-on experience in ethnographic fieldwork, participatory design, and qualitative analysis. Students contribute to coauthored publications, public design exhibits, and policy presentations.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Hardy's work informs public policy and regional development. His

research has supported the Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity and contributed to the creation of a statewide Rural Readiness Program. As associate director of the James H. and Mary B. Quello Center, he advances MSU's leadership in digital equity research and civic engagement.

Within the Department of Media and Information, Dr. Hardy serves on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and has co-led workshops on inclusive pedagogy and course design. He also contributes to the broader academic community through editorial service, conference leadership, and peer review, having evaluated more than 120 manuscripts since 2020.

In fewer than seven years at MSU, Dr. Hardy has distinguished himself as an exceptional educator and scholar whose work bridges theory, design, and community engagement. His courses encourage students to think critically about technology's social consequences, his research advances equity in digital innovation, and his mentorship supports the next generation of ethical technologists.

For his integration of cutting-edge research with transformative teaching, and for using his expertise in rural digital innovation to inspire students while advancing knowledge that benefits underserved communities across Michigan and beyond, Dr. Hardy is most deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



Communicative Sciences and Disorders
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

THEA KNOWLES

Dr. Thea Knowles is a certified speech-language pathologist and assistant professor in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders. Her collaborative National Institutes of Health and foundation-funded research focuses on reshaping how we understand and support communication challenges in individuals with neurological disorders.

Through a multimodal approach that combines acoustic, perceptual, and qualitative methodologies, her research aims to maximize speech treatment efficacy while minimizing treatment-related burdens for individuals facing the challenges of progressive neurological disease. Her research is closely informed by her previous clinical practice with Parkinson's disease and ongoing outreach within the broader Parkinson's disease communities.

In the classroom, she educates clinical, master's, and doctoral students in communicative sciences and disorders, reveling in teaching subjects that are traditionally intimidating to students, such as statistics, anatomy, and computer programming. Creative hands-on learning opportunities and examples are at the heart of her approach to scaffold and reinforce learning tough concepts.

One such course, Anatomy and Physiology, is among the more difficult in the department's undergraduate curriculum. Dr. Knowles completely transformed the class through a thoughtfully structured "hybrid flipped" format, breaking down complex topics into short, targeted video modules and offering knowledge check quizzes that allow immediate assessment of students' understanding.

In the lab, Dr. Knowles works to empower students to conduct rigorous clinical research while ensuring they deeply understand the needs of the population they serve. Clear expectations, thorough training, and the opportunity to engage in community advocacy and science communication events are all important pillars of her lab.

Additionally, one of her doctoral students won an award for her innovative game prototype, "CLEARLY," which is a speech treatment tool for Parkinson's disease that facilitates in-home practice to help patients generalize what they learn in the clinic.

For her work in bridging advocacy, science communication, and research to support the new generation of clinician-scientists in communication sciences and disorders, and her dedication to service and outreach, Dr. Knowles is deeply deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



College of Law

JUSTIN SIMARD

Mr. Justin Simard, an associate professor at the MSU College of Law, is a legal historian whose work has changed how lawyers, judges, and scholars think about citation and other important legal practices. In addition to serving as a law educator, he directs the college's Kelley Institute of Ethics and the Legal Profession.

Before joining the university in 2020, Mr. Simard clerked on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, held fellowships at the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy and Northwestern University, and served as a visiting professor at Willamette University College of Law.

Mr. Simard's research reveals the importance of routine legal work. By studying lawyers' work drafting agreements, performing due diligence, securing notes, and giving advice, he works to reveal the central role that the legal profession has played and continues to play in shaping American commerce. Focusing on legal routine not only allows him to explain the legal profession's economic influence but also to expose how hidden professional assumptions and ideas have been incorporated into the fabric of American law and the values of the legal profession.

As director of the Citing Slavery Project, Mr. Simard has uncovered that American judges and lawyers continue to cite cases involving enslaved people as good law.

Through its publicly accessible database (citingslavery.org), the project has shed light on the continuing legacy of slavery to a broader audience. Mr. Simard and his team have collected nearly 14,000 cases involving enslaved people, along with tens of thousands of cases that cite them. This work has drawn national attention, led to changes in legal citation rules, and garnered the American Society of Legal History Mary L. Dudziak Legal History Prize for excellence in digital legal history.

Mr. Simard brings his expertise in legal history into the law school classroom, where he teaches courses on contracts, commercial law, legal ethics, and the law of American slavery. According to his students, Mr. Simard's classes have "fundamentally changed" their perspectives on the law and helped give them "real-world skills" for legal practice.

As a mentor, Mr. Simard not only inspires those he teaches but also integrates them into his work, giving students who collaborate with him on the Citing Slavery Project the chance to present to scholars, lawyers, and judges across the country.

For his important contributions to legal history and his rigorous, effective, and inspiring teaching, Mr. Simard is highly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.



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

CAROLINE SZCZEPANSKI

Dr. Caroline Szczepanski is a prolific scholar and educator who utilizes a bio-inspired framework to tackle engineering challenges and design new materials. Through her research, education, and public outreach, Dr. Szczepanski brings a deep passion and enthusiasm for biomimicry to MSU. Her research draws inspiration from diverse natural systems, including water-repellent flower petals, fog-harvesting insects, and sticky reptile feet.

Using biomimicry, Dr. Szczepanski creates new materials that build upon these natural inspirations. Her work has been applied in diverse fields, including renewable adhesives, functional coatings, dental fillings, and sustainable food packaging. Dr. Szczepanski's innovative research has resulted in 45 journal publications, extramural funding from federal agencies and private entities, and, most recently, she was recognized as an emerging researcher and leader by the American Institute of Chemical

Engineers, the American Association of Oral, Dental & Craniofacial Research, and the American Chemical Society – Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering Division.

Dr. Szczepanski's goal as an educator is to empower STEM students to be effective and confident problem solvers. She meets this

goal using innovative learning approaches to ensure students are consistently engaged with course materials. She fosters a supportive learning environment where students embarking on their first core-engineering course are motivated to persist through difficult material. As one of her former students notes, "She offered a course that was challenging, and that allowed me to grow, but also allowed me to feel supported. It made me more confident that I do want to be a chemical engineer."

Dr. Szczepanski also connects her research and passion for bio-inspired design into engineering education, having developed an interdisciplinary graduate-level elective, Biomimicry in Engineering. This course provides students with training in bio-inspired design, management of interdisciplinary collaborations, and scientific communication, and as one student noted, it was arguably "the most creative and inspirational class at MSU."

Dr. Szczepanski's commitment to biomimetic design, education, and fostering a more inclusive environment in the field inspires students to explore non-traditional engineering solutions. She is wholly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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

Elena Ruíz
Department of Philosophy
College of Arts and Letters

Sara's House: Geneva Jackson

W.H.E.A.T.: Melvenna Fant-Jones

**Department of Philosophy
College of Arts and Letters**
ELENA RUIZ



W.H.E.A.T.:
MELVENNA FANT-JONES



Sara's House:
GENEVA JACKSON



Dr. Elena Ruíz's partnership with Melvenna Fant-Jones, Geneva Jackson and their respective organizations strengthened services and wraparound care for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking in Detroit. They worked together to deliver public health services responsive to the cultural and Healing Justice needs of survivors while improving community health infrastructures for violence prevention across Detroit.

Dr. Ruíz holds a tenured faculty appointment in philosophy (with a joint appointment in the College of Arts and Letters Dean's Office, Research and Scholarship unit) and has affiliations in American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Chicano and Latino Studies, The Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence, and The Center for Gender in a Global Context at MSU.

Her research focuses on policy and community-based solutions to gender-based violence, including sexual assault, rape, interpersonal violence, stalking and cyberstalking, and trafficking. Her work has had a broad-ranging impact across fields by illuminating how systems-level interactions and the colonial histories of the built environment shape population health and the structural determinants of health for populations of color, particularly for women of color survivors of sexual violence. Through the Research Institute for Structural Change (RISC), she trains the next generation of structurally responsive community health advocates and policy leaders committed to structural change.

Dr. Ruíz's anti-violence work has been supported by major grants and fellowships, including the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and appears in dozens of

peer-reviewed publications. In 2020, she was named principal researcher on gender-based violence for the MeToo organization led by Tarana Burke, and she continues working with national stakeholders in the Survivor Justice movement to end sexual violence.

The four-year research-practice partnership between Ruíz, Fant-Jones, Jackson and their organizations significantly expanded community-led services in low-income Detroit neighborhoods. RISC raised more than \$400,000 through local, state and federal grants to support community partners and conduct evidence-based research to improve service delivery. These resources enabled the expansion of trauma-informed, culturally specific programs for survivors and their families.

RISC performed all services for free while training graduate and undergraduate students in research ethics and culturally responsive research-practice partnerships to support the work of violence prevention and victim service nonprofits in Michigan.

According to Fant-Jones, RISC's mentorship strengthened the organizational capacity of Women Healing Eternally and Transforming (W.H.E.A.T.), helping secure funding, improve sustainability, and advocate for policy changes that benefit survivors. The collaboration empowered the organization to expand services and envision new possibilities for survivor support.

This collaboration is strongly worthy of the Michigan State University Community Engagement Scholarship Award and represents MSU's deep commitment to communities and the mission to serve the public good.

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.

Gabe Ording

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



Entomology
College of Natural Science

GABE ORDING

Dr. Gabe Ording, director of the Center for Integrative Studies in General Science (CISGS) and a longtime undergraduate educator at MSU, is recognized with the President's Distinguished Teaching Award for sustained excellence in teaching, curricular leadership, and institutional impact. For more than two decades, he has advanced scientific literacy for non-majors through inclusive, evidence-based instruction and large-scale curricular innovation.

In large-enrollment courses such as Integrative Studies in Biological Science (ISB) 201 and 202, Dr. Ording creates learning environments that promote curiosity, intellectual risk-taking, and student belonging. His teaching effectiveness is reflected in consistently strong student evaluations. Through deliberate practices, he reduces anonymity in large lectures and increases participation and engagement.

Dr. Ording has extended his work beyond the classroom through experiential learning offerings such as study away programs in locations including Alaska, Costa Rica, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Switzerland. These experiences integrate scientific content with place-based learning and global context. His mentorship inspired and supported the student-led organization Students Taking on Malaria and Poverty (STOMP), which, for more than 20 years, engaged students in sustained service and international outreach.

As CISGS director, Dr. Ording led comprehensive curricular reform aligned with MSU's undergraduate learning goals and national frameworks. He also strengthened program-level assessment and established a culture of shared pedagogical inquiry through faculty-centered professional learning. At the university level, Dr. Ording contributed to the development of multi-college assessment infrastructure, the adoption of Quality Matters for online instruction, and multiple interdisciplinary curriculum pilots. Most recently, he directed nearly \$500,000 to launch the Spartan Teacher Promise, addressing Michigan's science teacher shortage.

Dr. Ording has held the director position since 2011, following a period as the assistant director from 2009 to 2011. He earned his Ph.D. (2008) and a Master of Science degree in entomology from MSU and holds a teaching certification in general science and biology.

Through sustained leadership at the classroom, center, and university levels, Dr. Ording exemplifies the ideals of the Michigan State University 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.

Monique Mitchell Turner

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).



Communication
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

MONIQUE MITCHELL TURNER

Since 2019, Dr. Monique Mitchell Turner has led the Department of Communication with uncommon clarity, compassion, and creativity, guiding one of MSU's flagship programs to new heights of inclusion, integrity, and intellectual curiosity. Known to colleagues simply as "Mo," she leads with both head and heart, pairing evidence-based vision with an abiding belief in people. She cultivates a culture where excellence grows organically, fueled by encouragement and example.

Dr. Turner's research focuses on the role of emotion in message design and processing. Recently, her work has been examining the intersections of discrete emotions in information seeking, attention, and processing (via eye-tracking), bio-physiological responses, and social norms. Additionally, she runs the Communication, Attention and the Science of Emotion lab at MSU, working to unpack the role of emotion on the processes underlying effects of human communication.

Her leadership philosophy is visionary yet deeply human. Dr. Turner created the department's first year-long onboarding program for new faculty, a model of mentorship and belonging that others now seek to emulate. "Mo's care, positivity, and energy in helping us become onboarded was an experience I wish every new faculty member could have," one colleague reflected.

For doctoral students, she designed a second-year professionalization program that opens the doors of academia, illuminating its hidden rules and strengthening its sense of community.

Dr. Turner has also reimagined the rhythms of departmental life, establishing traditions such as COMMtober Fest and the Excellence in Communication Speaker Series to celebrate shared achievement and connection. She launched the fast-growing undergraduate program in Communication, Leadership, and Strategy (CLaS), and she spearheaded the Communication Science Futures conference, convening international scholars to chart the field's next horizon.

Dr. Turner credits her teams for accomplishments, turning every milestone into a shared victory. An acclaimed scholar of emotion and persuasion, she is a Fellow of the International Communication Association and co-directs the National Social Norms Center. Her colleagues describe Dr. Turner's leadership as transformative and steady, a source of both progress and reassurance.

Through vision, empathy, and relentless follow-through, Dr. Turner embodies the art and heart of academic leadership at MSU. For that, she is unequivocally deserving of the Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership.

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.

Bindu Bhakta

Michael Everett

Maddalena Fanelli

Rebecca Henne

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



**Institute of Community, Food and Environment
MSU Extension**

BINDU BHAKTA

For more than two decades, Ms. Bindu Bhakta, a natural resources educator with MSU Extension, has been a driving force behind programs that empower individuals and communities to protect Michigan's natural resources. Her work exemplifies creativity, collaboration, and a deep commitment to making science accessible and actionable.

Ms. Bhakta's leadership shines through signature programs like the Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP), which has grown from a pilot project into one of Michigan's most effective conservation education initiatives. CSP equips participants with science-based ecosystem management principles and inspires them to volunteer and lead local stewardship efforts.

Ms. Bhakta has shared her knowledge through peer-reviewed publications, natural resources and conservation curricula, teaching resources, and books. This includes education on lake ecology, natural shorelines, and managing home water treatment, as well as a piece titled Evaluation of the Michigan Water School: Water Education Program for Local Leaders in The Journal of Extension.

Her innovative spirit transformed Introduction to Lakes into a nationally-recognized online course, reaching thousands across Michigan and beyond. Through programs like Michigan

Water School, soil testing initiatives, and septic system education, Ms. Bhakta has tackled critical water quality challenges with practical solutions benefiting both people and ecosystems. These efforts earned numerous awards and strengthened MSU's reputation as a trusted leader in community-engaged scholarship.

In addition to her education and outreach work in natural resources and conservation, Ms. Bhakta has served in several leadership roles. These include co-chair of the MSU Extension Community, Food and Environment Institute's Woods and Wildlife Conservation Team and the Natural Resources Team, as well as president of the MSU Extension Community and Natural Resources Development Association.

Beyond programmatic achievements, Ms. Bhakta is celebrated for her knowledgeable, humble, and collaborative character. She builds networks, mentors colleagues, and inspires long-term stewardship. As one supporter wrote, "Bindu is the hub about which an incredible conservation effort turns."

In every way, Ms. Bhakta embodies the excellence, innovation, and service that define our institution. For her vision, dedication, and extraordinary contributions to conservation education and community engagement, she is profoundly deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.



Community Sustainability
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

MICHAEL EVERETT

Dr. Michael Everett is a senior teaching specialist finishing his 18th year in the Department of Community Sustainability.

Over the course of his career, he has authored numerous journal articles, written multiple books, and presented at conferences locally and worldwide on environmental and sustainability education, experiential learning, and student engagement. However, Dr. Everett's real passion is in educating future generations of young people who will go out and make an impact on the world.

His research adheres to scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) principles, which involve systematically investigating student learning to improve educational practices.

Dr. Everett utilizes the classroom as a venue for applied research to better understand student motivation. For example, he utilized the socio-psychological theory of "flow" and optimal experience to better understand undergraduate students in a leadership course. These "flow" experiences are characterized by students becoming so engaged in learning that "time flies by." His work has found that measuring ideal experience is a unique way to understand motivation within undergraduate learning. Additionally, Dr. Everett is always eyeing opportunities to enhance his scholarship, exemplified by his participation as a Lilly Fellow and Adams Academy Fellow, cohort-based experiences that explore SoTL

with a focus on inquiry-based research and application.

Having been an educator for the past 28 years, including a decade teaching high school agriculture, food, natural resources, and mathematics before his career at MSU, Dr. Everett's goal is to create learner-centered experiences that allow students to become lifelong learners with a thirst for knowledge. Dr. Everett's own thirst for knowledge is a prescription for success. He has served on numerous university committees, including the Athletic Council, Military Education Advisory Committee, and the Academic Specialist Advisory Committee, where he served as both chair and vice chair during his tenure.

Dr. Everett believes there is no better way to gain knowledge than through service. Along with his current leadership role as associate chair in the Department of Community Sustainability, he is also the department's undergraduate program director and the program coordinator for the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Master of Arts program.

Dr. Everett exemplifies what it means to be a teacher-scholar while serving his department, college, university, and the greater agriculture and natural resources community. He is richly deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.



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

MADDALENA FANELLI

Dr. Maddalena Fanelli is an outstanding educator who combines technical expertise, professional experience, and compassion as a chemical engineering instructor.

She encourages her students to “never stop asking why,” making courses historically described as daunting both accessible and engaging for all students. Evidence of her impact as an educator is clear: alumni cite how Dr. Fanelli’s instruction fuels their professional success, and the College of Engineering has recognized her for excellence in teaching.

Above all, Dr. Fanelli is a creative engineer. She is constantly identifying new experiments that can improve the chemical engineering curriculum. She dedicates her time outside of formal instruction to developing new technical activities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she designed at-home laboratory kits to convey fundamental chemical engineering principles, including fluid flow and heat transfer. With these kits, students were able to maintain hands-on learning experiences.

Dr. Fanelli co-authored several chemical engineering publications and provided dozens of conference and poster presentations. She also provides individualized guidance to undergraduate engineering students, helping them connect coursework to professional practice and research. She actively mentors students participating in campus research

forums, encouraging them to present and communicate their work to broader audiences.

In addition to her contributions to the chemical engineering curriculum, Dr. Fanelli plays a critical role in advocating for safe laboratory practices. Her passion for safety has fueled departmental initiatives, and she regularly participates in industry-sponsored workshops on chemical process safety, seamlessly implementing new safety strategies into her laboratory instruction.

Dr. Fanelli furthers her service as a contributor to the Spartan Girls in Engineering and Spartan Engineering for Teens summer programs and the High School Engineering Institute. She is also a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society, among others.

Dr. Fanelli’s excellence, creativity, and innovation in the chemical engineering curriculum create a supportive environment for students to tackle complex and challenging topics. She fosters curiosity and engagement in the classroom and laboratory throughout the entire trajectory of an MSU chemical engineer, from introductory topics to capstone courses. These attributes make Dr. Fanelli a most deserving recipient of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.



**Institute of Health and Nutrition
MSU Extension**

REBECCA HENNE

A visionary in nutrition education, Ms. Rebecca “Becky” Henne has shaped the history of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) with unmatched leadership and strategic insight. In her role, she is responsible for coordinating the development and submission of the annual plan of work, budget, expense reports, and quarterly reports to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She ensures effective fiscal stewardship of federal funds, interprets and trains staff on federal guidelines, and aligns program strategies with needs assessment findings and program-eligible audiences.

Her influence extends far beyond Michigan, as Ms. Henne is a recognized leader among more than 160 implementing agencies nationwide, fostering collaboration and innovation in public health nutrition. Her ability to build collaboration, innovation, and strategic partnerships is displayed in her leadership of a multi-state U.S. Department of Agriculture food security research grant, which resulted in an evidence-based toolkit for food pantries and food policy councils and has since become a national model for community-based nutrition interventions.

She spread her knowledge and influence by contributing to several peer-reviewed publications, including *BMC Public Health* and the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, among others.

Colleagues describe her as “the steady compass in a sea of change,” guiding teams with clarity and purpose. Through her work, Ms. Henne ensured that evidence-based nutrition education reached communities where it mattered most, improving lives and strengthening food security.

In addition to her leadership in nutrition education and food security, Ms. Henne is involved with statewide coalitions and university committees, including the Michigan State Nutrition Action Collaborative, as well as MSU Extension leadership teams. She is also a member of national professional associations, like the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior, sharing insights that inform policy and practice nationwide. Ms. Henne’s leadership is evident not only in programs and grants but through her mentorship of countless MSU Extension professionals.

Throughout her career, Ms. Henne has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to MSU’s land-grant mission by turning research into practice, building community partnerships, and advancing public well-being. Her dedication and impact make her an extraordinary choice for 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.

Anara Akhmetova

Sarah Griffes

Jong In Lim

Jessica Pettengill

E. Woo

Alex Zajdel

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



Teacher Education
College of Education

ANARA AKHMETOVA

Ms. Anara Akhmetova is a doctoral candidate whose teaching exemplifies creativity, rigor, and care. With more than 17 years of experience across K-12 and higher education, she brings global insight, pedagogical innovation, and a humanizing approach to every classroom she leads.

Ms. Akhmetova has served as an instructor of record for 11 undergraduate and graduate courses in literacy, social justice, multilingual education, and teaching practice. Her scholarship is closely intertwined with her teaching and her dissertation, situated at the intersection of technology, science, and multilingual education, examining ways to support teachers working with multilingual learners. Her research, presentations, and awards reflect her sustained commitment to bridging global and local perspectives on education.

Ms. Akhmetova's past research endeavors examined how to leverage the assets of multilingual families in classroom practice, integrating global literature into the curriculum, and making literacy instruction more inclusive. Several published journal articles have highlighted her research in addition to co-authoring a chapter in "The New Kazakhstan: Steering the Steppe Amid a Global Storm."

Ms. Akhmetova's students describe her classes as spaces where every learner feels seen,

valued, and challenged. Grounded in her belief that teaching must honor the full humanity of students, Ms. Akhmetova designs learning experiences that connect academic content to students' lived experiences and community knowledge.

Ms. Akhmetova's teaching is marked by deep innovation. Drawing on her experience as an international accreditation evaluator for K-12 schools, she helps future educators understand equity and inclusion across diverse educational systems worldwide. She demystifies translanguaging pedagogy through hands-on design projects and invites multimodal expression through poetry, art, and digital storytelling, expanding students' understanding of what learning can be.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Akhmetova mentors future teachers as emerging scholars, supporting them in publishing and presenting practitioner research that bridges theory and practice. She also explores how artificial intelligence can be used responsibly and ethically to enhance teaching and learning.

The exceptional care and instructional skills that Ms. Akhmetova brings to her undergraduate and graduate students strengthen the quality of learning across the university. Through her teaching, scholarship, and service, she embodies the purpose of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



**Human Development and Family Studies
College of Social Science**

SARAH GRIFFES

Ms. Sarah Griffes, a doctoral candidate with a concentration in couple and family therapy, focuses her teaching on human sexuality, couples, and families. Students consistently report that Ms. Griffes creates a “safe space” that allows for “open, honest, and unbiased conversation,” where she encourages students to learn about themselves and their relationships and apply course material to their lived experiences.

Ms. Griffes’ research is focused on multiple aspects of the couple relationship, including education, flourishing, and virtues. In her work, she is interested in cross-cultural research and understanding couple experiences both within and between cultures. Her dissertation studies use a randomized controlled trial to compare two relationship education programs to understand the impact they have on military couples’ relationship satisfaction and individual mental health. As the author or co-author of several peer-reviewed papers, her publications focus on couple and family relationships, exploring how cultural context, trauma, and migration influence parenting, relational adjustment, and relationship quality.

Ms. Griffes has accumulated years of service within the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, including serving as a graduate education committee student representative, an undergraduate student mentor, and a new student mentor. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy-approved supervisor, a psychotherapist in private practice, and a supervisor at a practice dedicated to providing culturally attuned therapy and other resources to Black, Indigenous, other people of color, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Through her teaching, scholarship, and clinical work, Ms. Griffes equips students with the knowledge and self-awareness needed to support healthy relationships and family wellbeing. Her commitment to thoughtful instruction and relational learning makes her an outstanding recipient of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



Communication
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

JONG IN LIM

Mr. Jong In Lim is a doctoral candidate recognized for his transformative and relational approach to communication education. Grounded in his research on supportive communication, Mr. Lim teaches with attentiveness and care, helping students experience communication not only as what they study but as what they live together.

Mr. Lim's pedagogy begins with presence and connection. He sees learning as a relational process through which knowledge is co-created rather than transmitted. In his classes, understanding grows through responsiveness and shared attention, as students learn to see, question, and apply ideas in ways that matter to their lives. He has taught core undergraduate courses, earning consistently outstanding evaluations and strong appreciation from students and faculty alike.

An international scholar and educator, Mr. Lim began teaching in the U.S. during the global COVID-19 pandemic, an experience that shaped his understanding of connection as the foundation of learning. At MSU, he approaches every class as a shared space of discovery where responsiveness and collaboration guide how students and instructors learn together. He turns cultural and individual differences into opportunities for empathy and perspective-taking, helping students experience communication as both a subject of study and a way of being with others. His research has

led to publications exploring areas such as how credibility and message richness in artificial intelligence-based providers influence patient adherence, and whether COVID-19-related primary emotions affect risk perceptions, efficacy beliefs, and information seeking and behavior.

In addition to teaching and research, Mr. Lim has served as an ad hoc reviewer for the *Journal of Communication* and *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, and as president of the Korean Association for Graduate Students in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences, among other roles.

Grateful for the opportunities MSU provides to teach, learn, and grow within a truly global community, Mr. Lim represents the university's commitment to education that transcends borders. His teaching reminds us that the value of higher education lies not in efficiency, but in helping all Spartans from every background learn, care, and grow together.

Mr. Lim's teaching demonstrates how communication education can cultivate empathy, insight, and meaningful connections among students. His commitment to thoughtful instruction and student growth makes him an outstanding recipient of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



Journalism

College of Communication Arts and Sciences

JESSICA PETTENGILL

Ms. Jessica Pettengill is a doctoral candidate whose research examines the intersections of media, narratives, journalism, and society. As an instructor of journalism and media, Ms. Pettengill has experience teaching both journalism skills and philosophy. Additionally, she has engaged in volunteer efforts with many writing organizations, such as the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association, WriteGirl, and 916Ink.

Ms. Pettengill's dissertation explores the ways alternative, nonprofit newsrooms in Detroit create community-engaged programs and initiatives and how the initiatives repair journalist-community relationships and democratize the news process. Outside of her dissertation, she studies a myriad of media contexts, including entertainment media and their psychological effects and sociological meaning-making, as well as meta-journalistic discourse, newsroom norms, and journalist mental health.

Ms. Pettengill has authored two peer-reviewed published journal articles examining journalists' use of first-person storytelling in award-winning podcasts and the use of social media and digital storytelling for social good. She authored or co-authored three additional journal articles currently under review. These studies examine fourth-wave feminist content analysis of sexual objectification, agency, and

reciprocation in U.S. film, as well as the ethos of collaborative storytelling.

Ms. Pettengill's pedagogy focuses on engaging students in reflexivity, experiential learning, and creativity. Through her teaching, her students build journalism skills as well as their own journalistic philosophies. This helps future journalists take themselves seriously as writers and creatives, while developing a community of practice within the classroom.

Beyond her teaching and scholarship, Ms. Pettengill has served as a graduate student officer of the Teaching Excellence Subcommittee in the College of Communications Arts and Sciences and on the School of Journalism's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. She additionally has served as president of the Association for Doctoral Students in Information and Media, among several other leadership positions.

Ms. Pettengill is proud to represent the important position journalism education holds within higher education by bridging the classroom with the outside world, and she is even more honored every semester to see her students publish their first bylines and continue to witness their growth as journalists in internships and jobs after they leave her classroom. She is an incredibly deserving recipient of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



Teacher Education College of Education

E. WOO

E. Woo is a fourth-year doctoral candidate who builds on their lived experiences of scientific research, environmental justice, and activism to create opportunities for students to participate in civic engagement.

Woo's work centers on people of color and LGBTQ+ communities, reimagining what educational experiences can be when these communities are represented. They strive to cultivate educational spaces for the younger version of themselves, who struggled to be seen in the ways they wanted to be seen. As an interdisciplinary scholar and educator, Woo centers social justice across the social studies and science courses they teach, exploring the misrepresentation of social identities within educational spaces.

Woo has contributed to several research initiatives centered on science education and environmental equity. They served as a research assistant on projects examining participatory elementary science for community change and outdoor science teaching, and co-authored publications exploring topics like cocurricular interdisciplinary sustainability programming designed to develop graduate student leaders in sustainability, and a publication on environmental privilege.

Woo has taught courses ranging from Social Studies for Young Learners to Social Foundations of Justice and Equity in Education. Students regularly comment on how Woo fosters critical communities of care that allow them to fully enter the class and be vulnerable enough to engage with new ideas, including those that challenge their prior assumptions and beliefs.

As further evidence of this stance, following hard and contentious events, Woo has regularly held space for students to process and make sense of what is happening around them and connect that to their courses.

Woo also credits the thought partners who continue to shape and challenge them every day, including professors Dr. Terrance Burgess, Dr. Alex Allweiss, Dr. Justin Gutzwa, and Dr. Shireen Al-Adeimi, in addition to their colleagues. They dedicate their work to the queer and trans students of color past, present, and future.

Through their teaching, scholarship, and mentorship, Woo creates educational spaces where students feel seen, valued, and empowered to engage thoughtfully with complex issues. Their commitment to equity, representation, and transformative learning makes them an outstanding recipient of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.



Double Bass
College of Music

ALEX ZAJDEL

Mr. Alex Zajdel is a graduate teaching assistant and musician with exceptional promise as a performer, academic, and educator. He has made an outstanding impact in his mentorship role for aspiring undergraduate double bassists.

Mr. Zajdel has long had a strong passion for education. He began teaching privately at just 15 and volunteered as a clinician at his high school, even after his acceptance into the prestigious Interlochen Performing Arts Academy. Before joining the College of Music, he attended the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he double majored in music performance and music theory. He excelled in both areas, earning an assistantship in music theory and becoming the sole recipient of the Beth Pearce Nelson Award in Music Theory. His performance success led to the opportunity to play with the world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra.

Mr. Zajdel has made an outstanding impact since joining the College of Music. His work with undergraduate music majors has not only accelerated their progress but also enriched their college experience through community building and creating a sense of belonging. His approach to teaching is immersive in a way that is unique to him and his position within the bass studio.

Mr. Zajdel teaches weekly double bass private lessons for performance majors, music education majors, and non-majors. In addition to incorporating emotional intelligence into his teaching, he helps students build confidence and perseverance.

One student who has taken private lessons with Mr. Zajdel for the past three semesters shared, “Alex is an exceptional teacher who has brought back the fun and excitement in learning, expanded my musical confidence, and taught me the importance of going back to the basics, even in higher education.” His emphasis on breaking concepts down, explaining them in a hands-on and personable manner, and demonstrating when needed has inspired them to pursue their musical passions and grow exponentially.

Mr. Zajdel has impacted countless Spartan musicians and evokes indelible positivity in colleagues across campus. He leads both by example and by expertise and is incredibly deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.

ROBERT F. BANKS AWARD FOR INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

This award is presented to a member of the faculty, academic staff, or support staff in recognition of extraordinary and sustained institutional leadership that advances MSU's commitment to connectivity, quality, and inclusion.

Marilyn Amey †

Andrew Corner

The Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership is supported by the Office of University Development at Michigan State University.



**Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs
Office of the Provost**

MARILYN AMEY †

Dr. Marilyn Amey was an extraordinary scholar, mentor, and institutional leader whose 28-year career at Michigan State University transformed the people, programs, and cultures she touched. A professor of Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education and long-serving Chair of the Department of Educational Administration, she led with an uncommon blend of intellect, humility, and care. She exemplified the highest ideals of MSU's land-grant mission through her commitment to improving the conditions under which faculty, staff, and students learn, work, and lead.

A national leader in higher education, Dr. Amey held influential roles in the Association for the Study of Higher Education, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, American Educational Research Association, and the Council for the Study of Community Colleges, where she served as president. Her scholarship on leadership, community colleges, partnerships, interdisciplinary work, and the experiences of women leaders shaped the field and earned recognition, including ASHE's Inaugural Faculty Mentor Award and NASPA's Pillar of the Profession.

At MSU, Dr. Amey's leadership was transformative. As assistant provost for Faculty and Academic Staff Development, she built holistic, relationship-centered

leadership programs and created networks that connected colleagues across disciplines and career stages. She provided unwavering advocacy and support for women chairs and directors, convening a community where, as one colleague noted, "her scientific acumen and off-the-charts emotional intelligence sustained us." Her guidance was sought across campus for her deep institutional knowledge and her ability to ask questions that expanded understanding and invited new possibilities.

Dr. Amey's leadership was especially visible in MSU's recent effort to reform the evaluation of teaching. Where others saw obstacles, she cast a hopeful vision and built inclusive processes—rewriting outdated policy, implementing a modern student survey, and guiding early-adopting units toward meaningful change.

Hundreds of former students and colleagues shared tributes after her passing. One wrote, "She told me I could do hard things, and she made me believe it." Her influence endures in the leaders she developed, the communities she nurtured, and the institutional foundations she strengthened.

For her profound and lasting impact, Dr. Amey epitomizes the spirit of the Michigan State University Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership.

[†] *Posthumously*



**Advertising and Public Relations
College of Communication Arts and Sciences**

ANDREW CORNER

Mr. Andrew Corner, demonstrates an exceptional ability to anticipate institutional needs, mobilize collaborative solutions, and elevate our academic community. A defenseman in ice hockey, which he has played for 55 years, Mr. Corner anticipates the game's direction and sets up his team for victory. He has executed his extraordinary and sustained university leadership roles in the same manner.

Before joining MSU full-time, Mr. Corner spent eight years with The Rossman Group, a statewide issue management consultancy where he provided strategic counseling and account management services for clients in multiple industries. His background also includes a decade in the communications department of Ingham Regional Medical Center in Lansing.

As University Committee on Undergraduate Education chair during the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the passage of university policies governing instruction with a focus on student health and safety, as well as classwork access, equity, and inclusivity. His reputation as a fair, impartial leader who is always willing to listen, while still maintaining momentum to get things done, was valued in this position. In 2025, MSU recognized Mr. Corner's far-reaching impact with the Distinguished Academic Staff Award, underscoring the influence of his contributions across both campus and external communities.

Now interim chairperson for the Department of Advertising and Public Relations, he's introduced

the PR major, developed Education Abroad opportunities, and championed fixed-term faculty promotion. When starting the role, Mr. Corner recognized his learning curve and met individually with tenure-stream faculty to understand their work and determine how best to support their progress. He approached the position with leadership that's rooted in listening, respect, and shared purpose, carrying the impactful torch of his late father, a respected MSU professor for 39 years.

Mr. Corner's former students have become vice presidents, directors, influencers, teachers, and specialists in organizations worldwide. He serves as a supervisor and mentor to 45 teaching and research faculty. Faced with explosive enrollment growth, he harnessed his network and recruited faculty like Julie Rosenthal, with whom he met weekly during her first semester.

A member of the elite Public Relations Society of America College of Fellows and an accredited PR professional, Mr. Corner has led the local Central Michigan chapter as president twice, is a national assembly delegate, and is a recipient of the chapter's pinnacle PACEmaker of the Year Award.

Mr. Corner's enduring impact on the university community and utmost respect and professionalism toward students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others make him exceptionally deserving of the Michigan State University Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership.



Sociology
College of Social Science

SARAH PRIOR

Dr. Sarah Prior, associate professor of sociology and undergraduate program director, has served as teaching-focused faculty since 2016. She has also served as director of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Scholars Program in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dr. Prior's scholarly research focuses on gender-based violence and campus sexual culture. She works closely with undergraduate students in her Campus Sexual Culture Lab and received the 2025 Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor of the Year Award. Dr. Prior's work inside and outside the classroom sheds light on the importance of valuing humanity and the importance of kindness, laughter, joy, and curiosity in teaching and learning.

Her name appears in numerous publications, including as a co-author of the book "Campus Sexual Violence: A State of Institutional Sexual Terrorism," and she co-wrote several book chapters, in addition to publishing numerous peer-reviewed journal articles.

Dr. Prior's teaching focuses on inclusive excellence, empathy, curiosity, and creativity. She regularly teaches large and medium-sized undergraduate classes, including Introduction to Sociology; Sex, Gender and Sexuality; Social Inequality; and Youth and Society.

"Dr. Prior is not only an outstanding researcher and mentor but also a personal role model.

Her passion for her research, her dedication to making a meaningful impact with her work, and her unwavering support for her students have inspired me to strive for excellence in my own academic and professional pursuits in research and academia," said Lauren Golden, former MSU sociology student and current University of Oxford Sociology graduate student.

Within the Department of Sociology, Dr. Prior is one of the top undergraduate mentors and supervises funded and unfunded student research. She leads an undergraduate research lab and recently launched a study abroad program in Ireland, allowing students to engage, research, and learn about the best cross-cultural practices for preventing relationship violence.

During her time in the Department of Sociology, Dr. Prior has served on the department advisory committee, chaired the MSU SOC Undergraduate Education Committee, and became the faculty liaison to the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honors Program.

Dr. Prior's exemplary teaching and unwavering commitment to mentoring undergraduate researchers make her an exceptional candidate for the Michigan State University Donald F. Koch Quality in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

FACULTY EMERITI ASSOCIATION AWARD

←—————→
In recognition of Outstanding Contributions by an Individual or
Team of Faculty

Dave Dewitt

Steve Pueppke

Mike Scott

Jyotsna G. Singh

Scott Winterstein

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.



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

DAVE DEWITT

Dr. Dave Dewitt is the former director of the Research Technology Support Facility (RTSF) and associate dean for research in the College of Natural Science. Since his retirement, he has continued to play a vital role in supporting research and mentorship within the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and across the college. His leadership and continued engagement have strengthened critical research infrastructure and supported faculty, staff, and students throughout the university.

During his tenure as director of the RTSF and associate dean for research in the college, Dr. Dewitt was instrumental in establishing MSU's cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) facility. As the first phase of the project concluded near the end of his active faculty service, Dr. Dewitt helped oversee the purchase and installation of a Talos Arctica 200 keV electron microscope and supported the creation of the facility's foundational infrastructure. He also played a key role in designing and renovating the laboratory space, recruiting expert faculty through the Global Impact Initiative, and helping establish an external advisory board to guide the facility's development and long-term strategy.

Upon retiring, Dr. Dewitt remained actively involved in planning the second phase of the facility, which added additional instruments, including a Titan Krios and Helios Hydra, and expanded staffing to support the growing research community. Today, the cryo-EM facility serves more than 50 laboratories across MSU, including researchers in the Colleges of Natural Science, Human Medicine, and Engineering. Dr. Dewitt's leadership and mentorship were essential in bringing this transformative research resource to fruition.

Beyond infrastructure development, Dr. Dewitt has continued to contribute his time and expertise through service and mentorship. He has served for more than six years on the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology awards committee, helping oversee numerous student, postdoctoral, and staff awards and supporting faculty nominations for university and national recognition. He also continues to mentor colleagues within the department, offering guidance and support to faculty leaders and researchers.

Through his ongoing service, mentorship, and dedication to advancing research at MSU, Dr. Dewitt exemplifies the spirit of continued engagement recognized by the Faculty Emeriti Association Award.



**Asia Hub
International Studies and Programs**

STEVE PUEPPKE

Dr. Steve Pueppke has remained deeply engaged in advancing the university's global research, partnerships, and mentorship since retiring in 2020 through his continued work with the Asia Hub in International Studies and Programs.

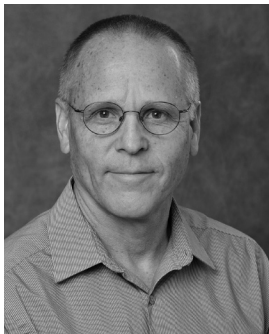
Engaged with the Asia Hub for decades, Dr. Pueppke played a foundational role in shaping its mission and global collaborations. In retirement, he continues to serve voluntarily as a senior scientist, maintaining a level of engagement equivalent to that of a full-time faculty member. He is regularly present in the office and actively involved in strategic planning, program development, and international collaboration, and remains an essential leader in guiding the hub's ongoing growth.

Dr. Pueppke's experience and institutional knowledge have been especially valuable during a period of expanding global partnerships and interdisciplinary research. His leadership has helped strengthen MSU's international collaborations while advancing research focused on the water-energy-food nexus, sustainability, and climate resilience in Asia and Central Asia. Through his guidance, the Asia Hub has further developed its commitment to reciprocal partnerships, scientific rigor, and long-term global engagement.

Equally important is Dr. Pueppke's dedication to mentoring students and emerging scholars. He has continued serving on doctoral committees and advising graduate students across multiple disciplines. He is also a dedicated mentor to junior faculty and early-career researchers, both at MSU and within partner institutions abroad. His manuscript-writing workshops and individualized mentorship have helped many scholars successfully publish their work and advance their academic careers.

Dr. Pueppke's continued scholarship further demonstrates his commitment to the university's mission. His post-retirement publications, invited international lectures, and editorial contributions continue to elevate the university's global research profile and strengthen its leadership in addressing complex environmental and development challenges.

Through his sustained service, mentorship, and scholarly engagement, Dr. Pueppke exemplifies the enduring commitment recognized by the Faculty Emeriti Association Award.



**Pathobiology & Diagnostic Investigation
College of Veterinary Medicine**

MIKE SCOTT

Dr. Michael Scott, associate professor emeritus, continues to advance veterinary medicine through scholarship, mentorship, and dedicated service to the profession since his 2022 retirement. A longtime faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, Dr. Scott remains widely respected as a teacher, scientist, and veterinary clinical pathologist whose work has had lasting impacts on students, colleagues, and the broader veterinary community.

One of Dr. Scott's most significant post-retirement accomplishments is the completion and publication of the third edition of "Fundamentals of Veterinary Clinical Pathology," a leading textbook for veterinary professionals and trainees in clinical pathology. The comprehensive volume, published in 2025, spans more than 1,200 pages and includes extensive new references, images, tables, and figures that reflect the latest advances in the field. The project required extraordinary dedication, particularly after the death of Dr. Scott's longtime co-author, Dr. Steven Stockham, early in the revision process. Dr. Scott's leadership helped ensure that the updated edition would continue to serve as a foundational resource for veterinary education and practice.

Throughout his career, Dr. Scott has been known for his unwavering commitment to teaching and mentoring College of Veterinary Medicine students and pathology residents. His teaching and clinical expertise helped train generations of veterinarians while supporting diagnostic efforts through the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory that contributed to animal health and agricultural practice across the region. Even in retirement, Dr. Scott's continued scholarly engagement and commitment to advancing veterinary clinical pathology reflect his enduring dedication to the profession.

Dr. Scott's continued scholarly engagement following his retirement reflects his lasting dedication to veterinary medicine education and the advancement of clinical pathology. His commitment to scholarship and mentorship continues to strengthen the field and makes him a deserving recipient of the Faculty Emeriti Association Award.



English
College of Arts and Letters

JYOTSNA G. SINGH

Dr. Jyotsna G. Singh continues to advance MSU's mission since her retirement in 2024 through scholarship, mentorship, and visionary leadership, strengthening the university's global standing in the humanities.

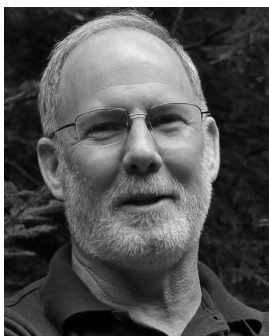
Following retirement, Dr. Singh launched and funded a transformative library endowment designed to support research in early modern studies, Shakespeare, postcolonial inquiry, and global humanities. Her vision positions the MSU Libraries as an intellectual crossroads and a dynamic site for interdisciplinary dialogue, scholarly inquiry, and community engagement, ensuring the endowment serves not only as financial support but as an enduring catalyst for research and collaboration.

Internationally recognized for broadening the Shakespeare canon through postcolonial and transnational perspectives, Dr. Singh's scholarship continues to influence global humanities discourse. She has demonstrated how Shakespeare's works circulate and acquire new meanings in formerly colonized spaces, and her work on Aimé Césaire's reinterpretations of "The Tempest" has shaped conversations about literature, decolonization, and global intellectual exchange, while modeling rigorous, historically grounded textual analysis that promotes intellectual plurality.

Dr. Singh's post-retirement contributions extend to public engagement and campus programming. She organized highly attended events that brought together faculty, students, librarians, and community members to discuss the future of humanities research at MSU. In collaboration with MSU Libraries, she curated the special exhibit "Europe and Empires of the East — Ottomans, Safavids, Mughals: Encounters and Exchanges, 1400-1800," highlighting the historical roots of European orientalism and offering critical context for contemporary debates on Islamophobia and global understanding.

Dr. Singh remains actively engaged in academic life through lectures, consultations, mentoring, and participation in scholarly events. Her guidance has shaped generations of faculty and students, fostering intergenerational intellectual exchange and modeling scholarship as a practice of inclusive community-building.

Through her sustained scholarship, mentorship, and visionary leadership, Dr. Singh continues to enrich MSU and the broader humanities community. Her enduring contributions make her a deserving recipient of the Faculty Emeriti Association Award.



Fisheries and Wildlife
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

SCOTT WINTERSTEIN

Dr. Scott Winterstein continues to make remarkable contributions to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife since his retirement in 2024. After 38 years of dedicated service, Dr. Winterstein has devoted himself to preserving the department's history and fostering connections across its community.

Part of Dr. Winterstein's dedicated work has been creating a detailed department timeline in preparation for its 75th anniversary. This work involved extensive interviews with every surviving former department chair, capturing their perspectives on leadership, faculty development, research milestones, and institutional growth. The resulting record provides a rich, nuanced account of how the department has evolved and serves as a lasting resource for future generations.

In addition to his work on the departmental timeline, Dr. Winterstein compiled a comprehensive database of nearly all past faculty and staff since the department's founding in 1950. This effort strengthened connections with alumni and colleagues while enabling the creation of the Fisheries and Wildlife "In Memoriam" webpage. The resource honors those who have contributed to the department's legacy and fosters a culture of remembrance and respect.

Dr. Winterstein's commitment to history and community extends to the Natural Resources Building's renowned polar bear display. Originally installed in 1966, the nine-foot taxidermy polar bear had become worn over time. Dr. Winterstein led a restoration campaign and developed a historical display describing the bear's significance, creating a compelling educational and cultural centerpiece for students, alumni, and visitors alike.

Through these endeavors, Dr. Winterstein has ensured that the department's stories, achievements, and traditions are preserved and celebrated. His work strengthens the sense of community among faculty, staff, students, retirees, and alumni, while inspiring continued engagement with the department's past and future.

Dr. Scott Winterstein's vision, energy, generosity, and dedication to documenting history, honoring colleagues, and enhancing the department's community have left an enduring legacy and make him a deserving recipient of the Faculty Emeriti Association Award.

ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS COMMITTEES

William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Awards+◆

John Aerni-Flessner	Anne Hughes
Susan Barman	Richard Lenski
Marcia Gordon	Brian Pentland
Ann-Lise Halvorsen	Camelia Suleiman

Teacher-Scholar Awards+◆

Nathan Cronin	Destiny Kanning
David Ewoldsen	Jane Manfredi

Community Engagement Scholarship Award★

Dalen Agnew	Jean Kerver
Rhonda Conner-Warren	Maria Lapinski
Asia Downtin	Gail Richmond
Louise Jezierski	Karen Salvador

Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership♥

Robert Brathwaite	James Forger
Kirk Dormer	Jerry Kooiman

Distinguished Academic Staff Awards+◆

Lauren Gaines	Bess German
Doug Gage	

Excellence-in-Teaching Citations+◆

Lissy Goralink	Mengyan Ma
Sherri Henry	

Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership+◆

Kendra Cheruvelil	Nara Parameswaran
Lucinda Davenport	Judith Stoddart

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

Kendra Holtrop	Auyinha Smith
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Faculty Emeriti Association Awards●

Thomas Coon	Janice Swanson
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★ Kwesi Brookins, Acting Ex-Officio Chairperson

+ Teresa Mastin, Ex-Officio Chairperson

♥ Cindi Leverich, Ex-Officio Chairperson

◆ Kelly Lambert, Project Events Coordinator

● John Baker, Chairperson