AWARDS CONVOCATION 2023

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AWARDS CONVOCATION

May 2023

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 Excellence
  Distinguished Academic Staff Awards
  Excellence-in-Teaching Citations
  Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership
  Donald F. Koch Award for Quality in Undergraduate Teaching
  Faculty Emeriti Association Award for
  “Outstanding Contributions by an Individual or Team of Faculty”
WILLIAM J. BEAL
OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS

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

Tracey Covassin
Dimitar Deliyski
Peilei Fan
William Hart-Davidson
Katheryn Meek
Robert Maleczka
Kevin Sedatole
Xiaobo Tan
Angela K. Wilson
Irene Xagoraraki

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. Tracey Covassin
2. Dimitar Deliyski
3. Peilei Fan
4. William Hart-Davidson
5. Katheryn Meek
1. Robert Maleczka
2. Kevin Sedatole
3. Xiaobo Tan
4. Angela K. Wilson
5. Irene Xagoraraki
Dr. Tracey Covassin is a leading scholar in athletic training and is renowned in the evaluation and treatment of sport-related concussion. Her research has focused primarily on sex differences in concussion prevalence and clinical outcomes, including the symptom, cognitive, vestibular/ocular, and psychological domains, and the application of research to the clinical management of concussion by athletic trainers. Because of her research, the International Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport now recognizes that women are at a greater risk for concussion than men.

Dr. Covassin’s commitment to collaborative and community-based research has led to the development of a program that has provided more than 10,000 free baseline and post-concussion assessments to members of the mid-Michigan community, ensuring a safer return to school, sport, and work.

Dr. Covassin has consistently obtained external funding to support her research, including more than $2 million from the Centers for Disease Control, the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment, and the Department of Defense. Over the past six years, she has obtained nearly $1 million in funding to aid in developing objective assessments of brain function to guide the care of mild traumatic brain injuries.

Dr. Covassin’s commitment to instruction and mentoring has positively affected students’ lives. She leverages collaborative technologies and interactive teaching practices to aid students in becoming evidence-informed problem solvers. She has been a mentor to dozens of undergraduate and graduate students by fostering a vibrant and cooperative environment in her research laboratory, where students work together to solve problems facing patients and health care providers as they navigate the process of concussion assessment and recovery.

In recognition of her expertise and leadership in the field of concussion, Dr. Covassin was invited to the White House Healthy Kids and Safe Sports Concussion Summit and served on the prestigious Institute of Medicine’s Sport-Related Concussion in Youth committee. She is an elected fellow in the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) and the National Academy of Kinesiology and was awarded the NATA Rachael Oats Leadership Award and NATA Sayers “Bud” Miller Distinguished Educators Award for excellence in athletic training education.

For her commitment to research, mentoring and teaching, her profession and department, and to improving the lives of people with concussion, Dr. Tracey Covassin is richly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
An MSU Foundation Professor, Dr. Dimitar Deliyski is an international leader in laryngeal imaging and vocal analysis, having shaped the field through groundbreaking research, novel technological advances, and expert mentoring of students and colleagues. Recognized as one of the world’s top experts in the study of voice production, Dr. Deliyski developed instrumentation and protocols for speech and voice analysis used around the world, including modern-day laryngeal stroboscopy and high-speed videendoscopic analysis of vocal function. His work provides a critical foundation for clinical assessment and intervention for people experiencing difficulties with their vocal health.

Author of more than 85 refereed papers and more than 125 conference presentations, Dr. Deliyski’s research has been continuously funded for nearly 25 years, including support from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Deafness and the Department of Defense.

Dr. Deliyski is a dedicated educator and mentor who enthusiastically provides students at all levels with guidance on how to succeed. His dedication as a mentor is evident in nearly all his publications and presentations in that they include a student or mentee as co-author. Highlighting his outstanding mentoring, his students have received the prestigious Sataloff Award for Young Investigators on three occasions. Additionally, faculty in his department recognize his guidance and support as they pursue grants and tenure, hailing him as a mentor without equal in helping them navigate a successful academic career.

As the chair of his department, Dr. Deliyski has leveraged his extensive experience in academia, medical settings, and the private sector to support a culture of sustainable success. His leadership has led his department to tremendous growth in teaching, research productivity, extramural funding, and professional service. These achievements led to the provost awarding the department the inaugural MSU Spirals of Excellence Award in 2022.

Dr. Deliyski emphasizes a departmental culture that values collegiality and community. He is a tireless advocate for his colleagues, who consistently highlight his warm nature, wonderful personal characteristics, and encouraging manner. It is this blend of academic excellence and support for colleagues that makes Dr. Deliyski so valuable the field of voice science, to his worldwide colleagues, and to MSU.

For his significant accomplishments as a researcher, mentor, and leader in communicative sciences and disorders, Dr. Dimitar Deliyski is most deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
Dr. Peilei Fan is an internationally recognized scholar of urban sustainability, global change, and innovation studies. She has investigated the co-evolved relationships between urbanization, landscape and environmental changes, and economic development under climate change, institutional transformation, and globalization in transitional economies (China, Mongolia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, Russia, and Romania); in the Global South; and on a global scale.

Dr. Fan has served as PI/Co-PI on numerous external grants totaling $4.5 million (more than $2 million as PI) from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. In 2019, the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations selected her as one of 20 Public Intellectual Fellows.

Dr. Fan was the recipient of the Cross-disciplinary Faculty Research Award from MSU’s College of Social Science in 2019 and a Core Fulbright U.S. Senior Scholar for 2017-18. She has been a prolific and collaborative scholar, publishing two books, numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and guest (co)editing special issues of high impact academic journals, including as lead author in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and a co-author of Nature Communications.

Dr. Fan has taught for the past 15 years and advised numerous graduate students, postdocs, and research associates. Under her supervision, her mentees have obtained prestigious national and international awards.

Dr. Fan has provided exceptional leadership and services at local, national, and international locations. She was the elected secretary general of the International Association of Landscape Ecology from 2019-2023. She also serves as the deputy director of the Landscape Ecology Working Party of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and as an associate editor of Landscape and Urban Planning.

Dr. Fan is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in her professional and personal life. She has conducted research on inequality of access to resources and opportunities, been a teacher and a mentor for students from underrepresented minority groups, and advanced DEI in her own unit and professional communities. She currently serves on the college’s DEI Working Group.

For her excellent research, her commitment to mentoring and student learning, and her service to her professional and MSU communities, Dr. Peilei Fan is highly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
Dr. William Hart-Davidson, who serves as associate dean of research and graduate education in the College of Arts and Letters, is an award-winning researcher and author of two books, both of which were groundbreaking in the field of rhetoric and writing studies. The first, *Rhetoric and the Digital Humanities*, explored the transformation of humanities research through digital tools and resources. His second book, *Rhet Ops: Rhetoric & Information Warfare*, seeks to document and analyze how state and nonstate actors leverage digital rhetoric as a twenty-first-century weapon of war.

Dr. Hart-Davidson is the lead researcher and developer of cutting-edge software, including *Faciloscope* and *Eli Review*. *Eli Review*, a software that supports writers and writing instruction, is a collaborative, peer-response app that has been adopted at hundreds of K-12 institutions, colleges, and universities across the country. It offers a set of tools to help writing instructors run a feedback-centered classroom.

Dr. Hart-Davidson has published more than 75 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and has more than 1,500 citations. He has served as PI or Co-PI or participated in grant activity totaling more than $6.5 million during his time at MSU.

Dr. Hart-Davidson teaches courses in information architecture, content strategy, information and interaction design, research methodologies, and grant and proposal writing at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has also taught special topics courses in the Eli Broad College of Business and in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. He has chaired or served on more than 40 PhD and 30 MA committees.

Dr. Hart-Davidson's students and peers speak highly of him. One student stated, “He is a generous scholar who not only readily offers his time and support to others, but also sees the best in people and their abilities.” A colleague stated, “Dr. Hart-Davidson may be the most talented researcher of our generation.... He has done some of the most inventive work on the composing process. His work on digital rhetoric is prescient.”

For his advanced, student-centered research, his commitment to mentoring, and his extensive service to his department, MSU, and his profession, Dr. William Hart-Davidson is fully deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
For Dr. Robert Maleczka, research, teaching, and service are seamlessly interwoven. An overarching theme of his research is green chemistry, with a focus on organic molecules containing boron, silicon, or tin. The breadth of his scholarship is witnessed by publications (90 at MSU) and patents (16) on topics ranging from fundamental studies on molecular rearrangements to new strategies for the construction of inorganic-organic hybrid materials with possible aerospace applications. In the land-grant tradition, green reactions invented by Maleczka and his collaborators are now commonplace in academic and industrial labs around the globe.

Dr. Maleczka’s research group is an inclusive environment where researchers from diverse backgrounds find success. Dr. Maleczka has been continuously funded by the NSF, NIH, and other foundations and corporations since 1998. Among the honors he has received, Dr. Maleczka considers being named the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, MSU Chapter, Mentor of the Year among the most special. Dr. Maleczka is a fellow of the American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Maleczka has been elected to multiple national society positions and is currently a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Chemical Sciences Roundtable. He is equally committed to serving MSU. He has held multiple academic governance positions, has been an active participant in the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate, and served more than 10 years as chairperson of the chemistry department.

Dr. Maleczka championed MSU being an early signer of the Beyond Benign Green Chemistry Commitment and is currently PI on a grant to aid the transformation of MSU’s organic chemistry lab course to a project-based curriculum incorporating the principles of green chemistry. Dr. Maleczka taught large enrollment organic chemistry courses and gave lectures as part of MSU’s Big Ideas Seminar series for first-year students, fulfilling one of the value propositions of students coming to MSU, namely, that they be taught by those working at the cutting edge of topics in their syllabi.

For his original, groundbreaking research and commitment to green chemistry, his extensive service to MSU and his profession, his commitment to student learning at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and his excellent mentoring of graduate students and postdocs, Dr. Robert Maleczka is richly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
Dr. Katheryn D. Meek is a geneticist whose longstanding career has focused on the mechanisms underlying the repair of DNA double strand breaks, which occur in cells following exposure to radiation and chemicals and even during normal cell processes, such as DNA replication. Mutations in DNA repair genes can give rise to heritable diseases, and mistakes in DNA repair can lead to the death of cells or their transformation into cancer cells. Dr. Meek’s interest in an enzyme that mediates DNA repair arose following her discovery of the genetic cause of equine immunodeficiency, a mutation that turned out to be a critical enzyme in DNA repair.

Dr. Meek’s research has led to more than 100 publications in the highest ranked journals, including Science, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Molecular Cell, Nucleic Acids Research, Journal of Experimental Medicine, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, among others. Dr. Meek has more than 6,000 citations and has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1991. She has been the principal investigator or project director on grants totaling more than $16 million.

Dr. Meek’s teaching and mentorship has had a positive impact on students and the department. In her lab, she has trained eight PhD students and 10 postdoctoral fellows. All of these people have progressed to excellent jobs, and her trainees include many current tenure-stream faculty and scientists, including full professors and department chairs in academia, and senior leadership positions in biotech firms. Her exemplary mentorship and advising style are evident in student evaluations of her guidance: “Dr. Meek has this great ability to drive you to improve, while also making you feel tremendously supported”; “Dr. Meek’s contributions to my training far exceeded what’s traditionally expected of a PhD supervisor.... I can think of no one who has had such a long-lasting impact on my career as Dr. Meek”; “[In Dr. Meek’s lab,] I learned how wonderful it was to do science in a collaborative and positive environment.”

Dr. Meek was instrumental in developing the Research Forum for the Graduate Program in Cell and Molecular Biology. The forum gives students the opportunity to present their research in a professional setting and to hear invited speakers and seminars talk about their own research.

For her outstanding service to her profession, her excellent mentoring of students and postdocs in their careers, and her ongoing contributions to exemplary research critical to human and animal health, Dr. Katheryn D. Meek is a most deserving recipient of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
Instrumental Conducting  
College of Music  

KEVIN SEDATOLE  

Dr. Kevin Sedatole is a foremost wind band conductor, with a comprehensive and sustained record of excellence in performance, instruction, and service. He leads the master’s and doctoral programs in wind conducting; the doctoral program is highly selective, with a 100 percent record of employment. His teaching and mentorship of graduate students includes their participation in rehearsals and performances of all the ensembles, including regular opportunities to be on stage with the MSU Wind Symphony. A champion of contemporary music, Dr. Sedatole regularly commissions new works for wind band and provides opportunities for students to work with renowned composers on these pieces.

Under Dr. Sedatole’s direction, the MSU Wind Symphony has given numerous featured performances at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the national conventions of the College Band Directors’ National Association, and the national conventions of the American Bandmasters Association.

Dr. Sedatole’s commitment to teaching reaches throughout the entire band program, which enrolls more than 700 students in seven concert bands: the Wind Symphony, Symphony Band, Concert Band, Chamber Winds, Campus Bands, Spartan Marching Band, and Spartan Brass. Additionally, he initiated the Spartan Youth Wind Symphony (SYWS), which welcomes talented Michigan high school students for intensive weekly ensemble and chamber music rehearsals. Each Sunday, SYWS musicians learn to work together, culminating in a concert shared with the MSU Wind Symphony at Wharton Center every semester. One of Dr. Sedatole’s greatest strengths is that his effectiveness on the podium maximizes the potential of the ensembles with which he works, from high school to collegiate to professional.

Dr. Sedatole’s numerous invitations to perform at leading music conferences, conventions, and venues speak to his professional-level conducting. His talent as a conductor inspires musicians to reach beyond their musical limits while making MSU a national destination for graduate conducting students. His record of engagements includes the U.S. Army Band, “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band, and major ensembles in Austria, Tokyo, Taiwan, Spain, Germany, and Australia – and more than 22 national conducting symposia, including many at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Sedatole’s conducting has earned accolades from such prominent composers as Robert Beaser, John Corigliano, Michael Colgrass, and many others.

For his commitment to music education at all levels, his outstanding accomplishments as a conductor, and his ongoing leadership in the advancement of all MSU concert bands, Dr. Kevin Sedatole is most deserving of the William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
Dr. Xiaobo Tan is an international leader in the fields of control systems, soft robotics, and underwater robotics. He is internationally renowned for developing and applying control theory to advance smart-material systems and underwater robotics. His groundbreaking contributions to modeling and control of electroactive polymers have enabled approaches essential for the future development of artificial muscles and their applications.

Dr. Tan’s research demonstrates a combination of talent and capabilities from analytical excellence to computational methods to practical implementation. He developed fish-like robots, dubbed GRACE, that have wide-ranging applications, from monitoring harmful algal blooms to tracking invasive species in the Great Lakes. His research group also developed smart sensing panels for detecting the suction of sea lampreys, offering novel solutions to sea lamprey control. Taking inspiration from biology, including octopus and snakes, his group also created various soft robots for exploring a broad spectrum of applications, from fruit harvesting to pipeline inspection.

With research spanning controls, dynamics, materials, fabrication, and robotics, Dr. Tan has established extensive collaborations within and beyond MSU, with electrical and mechanical engineers, computer scientists, environmental scientists, ecologists, and biologists. His work has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Office of Naval Research, National Institutes of Health, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, U.S. Geological Survey, and Toyota and Ford.

Dr. Tan is a prolific researcher and educator. With students and collaborators, he has published more than 300 papers in reputable international journals and won multiple best paper awards. He holds four U.S. patents on smart material sensors and gliding robotic fish. Dr. Tan has mentored 20 PhD students to completion and has advised more than 70 undergraduate students on lab research.

Dr. Tan has instituted exceptional outreach activities at MSU. He played a leading role in establishing the NSF-sponsored Research Experiences for Teachers Site Program, which has trained more than 100 middle and high school STEM teachers and is now in its 14th year. He was also responsible for creating the exhibit “Robofish Rendezvous” at the MSU Museum, which attracted thousands of visitors in 2016 and 2017.

For his exceptional research in control systems and robotics, his excellent guidance and training of undergraduate and graduate students, and his exceptional service to MSU, Dr. Xiaobo Tan is richly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
Dr. Angela K. Wilson, the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, is an internationally renowned leader in quantum mechanics, specifically in the development, understanding, and application of methodologies for thermochemistry. She is also one of the world leaders in the development of the widely used correlation consistent basis sets for quantum chemistry computations and has invented the correlation consistent Composite Approach, a computational tool that provides an accurate description of thermochemical properties across the periodic table at reduced computational costs. Her research also encompasses drug discovery, environmental chemistry, catalysis, thermodynamics, and sustainability, addressing some of the most daunting environmental and human health challenges.

Dr. Wilson is an excellent mentor and strong advocate for students and early career scientists. She has mentored more than 150 students and postdoctoral fellows, with 25 of her students earning PhDs and five earning MS degrees. She has led initiatives on success strategies, careers, and leadership for undergraduate and graduate students, early career faculty, and future faculty from populations underrepresented in STEM. To advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, she has helped lead an international recognition program for women and STEM outreach activities, locally and nationally.

Dr. Wilson was named one of the five most influential women chemists and one of the 40 most influential women in STEM over the past decade. Some of her honors include induction into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame; being named a fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS), American Physical Society, and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); and receiving the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Distinguished Woman in Chemistry Award.

Dr. Wilson has held top national and international science leadership roles. She led the NSF Division of Chemistry and was responsible for nearly $1 billion in research investments. She was president of the Physical and Biophysical Chemistry Division of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry; chemistry section chair of AAAS; and president of ACS, the world’s largest scientific society. She is the first scientist to hold top roles in all four leading scientific organizations.

For her significant accomplishments as an international scholar in theoretical and computational chemistry, a leader in national and international scientific organizations, and a committed mentor and advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in research, Dr. Angela K. Wilson is richly deserving of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Award.
IRENE XAGORARAKI

Dr. Irene Xagoraraki is an internationally recognized scholar who combines engineering tools and approaches with knowledge of environmental microbiology to protect public health. She was among the first researchers to recognize the fundamental importance of an accurate accounting of viruses in wastewater systems for preventing waterborne disease. She made pioneering contributions in the emerging area of wastewater epidemiology and was at the forefront of the environmental surveillance work to detect SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes Covid-19) in Detroit’s wastewater system, which furnished an early warning for regional health officials to help contain the spread of the 2020 pandemic.

Dr. Xagoraraki’s research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security as well as professional associations and agencies, including the Water Research Foundation, the American Water Works Association, and the Great Lakes Water Authority. Since joining MSU, Dr. Xagoraraki has secured 28 grants worth $4.5 million.

Dr. Xagoraraki has published 62 peer-reviewed journal articles, seven book chapters, and has given numerous invited presentations around the world. She was among those included in the book, Women in Water Quality: Investigations by Prominent Female Engineers, published in 2020.

Dr. Xagoraraki’s commitment to research mentorship is evident in her record of research advising, which includes nine PhD students, 11 MS students, and four undergraduate students; she has also mentored five visiting scholars. Dr. Xagoraraki promotes diversity and encourages students from traditionally underrepresented groups to pursue advanced degrees; eight of her graduate advisees are from traditionally underrepresented groups.

Dr. Xagoraraki’s many service commitments include the MSU Institute of Global Health, where she chairs the Consortium for Water Quality/Waste Management Virtual Institute and leads MSU’s effort to develop an international network focused on the prevention and management of infectious diseases, with particular emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean. In service to her field, Dr. Xagoraraki serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Environmental Engineering.

Dr. Xagoraraki received the prestigious Wesley W. Horner Award in 2022 and the Civil Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2021.

For her outstanding scholarship, excellent record as a mentor, and significant contributions to MSU’s mission, Dr. Irene Xagoraraki 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.

Daniel Ahlquist

Melissa Charenko

Janet Hauck

Nazita Lajevardi

Jane Manfredi

Divya Victor

The Teacher–Scholar Awards are supported by the Office of University Advancement at Michigan State University.
Dr. Daniel Ahlquist is a teacher and scholar motivated by questions of inequality, power, social and environmental justice, and human–nature relations. His dissertation focused on the consequences of agrarian change for communities in upland Thailand. His current research has expanded into two related areas, one as a member of an interdisciplinary team exploring the impacts of development in the Lower Mekong River Basin. More specifically, his work with the interdisciplinary Mekong Culture WELL project (Water, Environment, Livelihoods & Land use) critically examines land use change and changing social dynamics in relation to dam development and climate change in the Lower Mekong River Basin.

Dr. Ahlquist’s research is ongoing through several grants, including a NASA grant for more than $700,000 and a Henry Luce Foundation Initiative on Southeast Asia grant for $1 million. These grants include a teaching component, and undergraduate and graduate students were included in teams in Cambodia that completed 700 household surveys and several cultural mapping trainings.

Dr. Ahlquist has published three book chapters and three articles. He also has numerous papers in progress, each with an identified target journal. Recognizing the value of collaboration in student learning, Dr. Ahlquist has included undergraduate students in his scholarship, mentoring them in the research process and frequently co-authoring published manuscripts with them.

In the classroom, his writing courses are demanding, rich with difficult and provocative readings, and creative, purposeful assignments. He teaches both the first and second in the introductory public affairs sequence in James Madison College, which requires students to engage with the ongoing interdisciplinary exploration of enduring issues and conflicts in American and international public affairs. He has also taught courses on global environmental justice and global food systems, drawing on his expertise in food and environmental studies.

For his excellent research in Thailand exploring the interface of human and environmental concerns and their relationship to social power structures and his commitment to teaching topics that require students to engage with complicated social and ethical issues, Dr. Daniel Ahlquist is most deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.
Dr. Melissa Charenko is an historian of science, whose scholarship explores the interrelation of scientific and lay definitions of climate. Anyone can feel aspects of the weather, but no one can ever experience the full temporal and spatial range that is climate. Instead, definitions of climate are mediated through instruments like thermometers, technologies like models, old records like weather diaries, or organic and inorganic remains that have responded to past climates. Dr. Charenko’s work focuses on scientists who tried to understand climate over the last 10,000 years.

She explores how ecologists, botanists, and limnologists discovered how human actions imperiled life on earth decades before the earth and atmospheric sciences began to model and predict environmental futures. She highlights how the findings explained by these scientists became eclipsed by the planetary-scale environmental futures narrated by their colleagues in the earth and atmospheric sciences and how the loss of an ecological perspective impoverishes the narratives of anthropogenic change and limits possible solutions to the climate crisis.

Dr. Charenko argues that competing understandings of climate have consequences for the climate crisis, including uncertainty about scientific results and limited climate imaginaries. As a result, scientists and the lay public remain fixated on temperature and atmospheric gases, rather than climate’s full range and its effects on lives and livelihoods.

Dr. Charenko’s teaching employs innovative experiential learning techniques to help students consider the interactions between science, society, and the environment. At Lyman Briggs College, she teaches courses on science and the environment, where students visit sites in the Lansing area to explore the relationships between science and the environment; science and the public, in which students use podcasts to examine interactions between researchers and people; and a senior seminar, where students use a board game to understand biology and society. She also teaches courses on environmental history in the history department within the College of Social Science.

For her innovative research into climate and her commitment to employing innovative learning techniques that take students outside the classroom to expand their education, Dr. Melissa Charenko is highly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.
Kinesiology
College of Education

JANET HAUCK

Dr. Janet Hauck’s research includes motor development and adapted physical activity. She examines health behaviors in early life, health disparities in children with developmental disabilities, and the design and implementation of meaningful interventions. Her recent work includes the design and implementation of accessible physical activity interventions for children with Down syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and youth with physical disabilities.

Dr. Janet Hauck has published more than 20 peer-reviewed research papers in such highly respected journals as Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly, Autism, Journal of Physical Activity and Health, and Infant Behavior and Development. She currently has two papers under review. She has received support for her research from the National Institutes of Health, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

Dr. Hauck is dedicated to mentoring, and has mentored more than 60 undergraduates in her lab since 2014. She also mentors numerous graduate students in her lab each year who not only receive the benefit of her guidance but also learn how to mentor—a skill that will benefit them in their future careers.

Dr. Hauck’s advising philosophy includes creating a safe and interactive research environment and scaffolding student growth and development respectfully.

Dr. Hauck integrates her scholarship with her teaching. Most lectures include research related to disability programming designed to benefit youth with various impairments. She details the process behind her research, including the experimental design and methodology to help students become more research literate. She also ensures they learn how to write an article abstract and prepare a poster and oral presentation in her classes.

Dr. Hauck is committed to community outreach. She serves as a voluntary health consultant through the Healthy Athletes Screening Program for the Special Olympics, and has continually sought funds to support the only adapted sport program in the area making programming available for people with physical disabilities nearly every day for the adapted sports community.

For her commitment to research that benefits people with disabilities, teaching that engages students in research and its application, and service to the community that pursues the latest research-based interventions, Dr. Janet Hauck is greatly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.
Dr. Nazita Lajevardi’s research explores how minority groups fare in western democracies. Most of her work centers on Muslims in the United States, although she also investigates how asylum seekers from the Muslim world fared upon their arrival to the EU during the 2015 “Refugee crisis.” Her scholarship has developed public opinion measures for the particular study of attitudes towards Muslims and traced how discriminatory political campaigns affect underrepresented minority groups and make them retreat from public and political spaces. Most recently, she has studied the psychological effects of asylum seekers waiting for a migration decision.

Dr. Lajevardi’s scholarship has had numerous policy consequences. In May 2021, she provided oral and written testimony before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Elections of the Committee on House Administration for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Additionally, many lawmakers and courts have cited her scholarship on voter suppression.

Dr. Lajevardi has published 27 articles in such prestigious journals as the American Political Science Review, The Journal of Politics, and Political Behavior and two books from Cambridge University Press. She has also published five book chapters and has an article forthcoming in Electoral Studies.

Dr. Lajevardi takes her role as a teacher seriously. She believes that education is a privilege and that teachers play a unique role in providing students with well-rounded skill sets. In each class, she understands that students have diverse knowledge and aptitudes and makes it a priority to give ample attention to less prepared students.

In her graduate courses, Dr. Lajevardi has enjoyed teaching the next generation of political scientists how to design, program, conduct, and analyze survey data from a national sample of Americans. By the end of her courses, students have typically written a paper on an original sample about American politics, and often go on to present their studies at conferences.

In 2021-2022, Dr. Lajevardi was the Winant Visiting Professor of American Government at the University of Oxford, and the Winant Fellow at Balliol College.

For her outstanding research, which often has policy consequences in governmental affairs and attracts the attention of scholarly media, her commitment to training the next generation of political science scholars, and her commitment to guiding undergraduates exploring political science for the first time, Dr. Nazita Lajevardi richly deserves the Michigan State University Teacher-Scholar Award.
Dr. Jane Manfredi is a veterinarian board certified in equine sports medicine and rehabilitation. Her research interests include the intersection of endocrine and musculoskeletal disease, particularly arthritis, with a focus on anatomy, pathophysiology, and treatment. She is also interested in teaching pedagogy. Dr. Manfredi is PI of the Equine and Comparative Orthopedic Rehabilitation and Endocrinology (ENCORE) Laboratory, which uses naturally occurring and experimental animal models of disease to investigate prevention and inform treatment for humans and animals, with projects that span from the benchtop to stall-/cage-side. Dr. Manfredi has had 24 funded grants from state and national government, foundations, private donors, and industry since joining MSU’s faculty in 2017. She has published 18 papers, given 18 invited presentations, and completed 42 conference oral abstracts since 2017. From her currently funded teaching grants, she has validated the use of a hypersaturated saline solution to store anatomy specimens and designed and built a 3-D dog stifte model to teach how to determine joint range of motion.

Dr. Manfredi teaches innovatively in all four years of the veterinary curriculum, with her student-centered teaching philosophy focused on experiential learning propelled her innovation. One example of her creative approach in the classroom is having students create simplified physical models for anatomical concepts, such as using sponges and pipe cleaners to demonstrate how cruciate ligaments operate in the knee. She has also created laboratories where students perform important veterinary clinical skills early in their training to reinforce anatomy concepts in low stakes settings.

Mentoring is a passion for Dr. Manfredi, particular in training promising clinician-scientists. She likes mentees to have projects they can successfully work on independently, while she familiarizes them with both benchtop and whole-animal techniques and has them work through the scientific method, including the statistical analysis of their results. She prepares them for oral abstract presentation, and her mentees have presented at multiple national and international conferences.

For her commitment to clinical and pedagogical research and her devotion to mentoring students to excellence in clinical settings and the classroom, Dr. Jane Manfredi is richly deserving of the Michigan State University Teacher–Scholar Award.
Dr. Divya Victor’s writing, editing, and research focuses on twentieth and twenty-first century emergent poetry and poetics, with an emphasis on innovative and experimental forms and poets who undertake representations of trauma, both systemic and intersubjective.

A prolific and visionary poet, Dr. Victor is the author of CURB; KITH, a book of verse, prose memoir, lyric essay, and visual objects; Scheingleichheit: Drei Essays; NATURAL SUBJECTS, winner of the Bob Kaufman Award; UNSUB; and THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR MOUTH. In 2021-22, CURB was awarded both the Pen America Open Book Award, given to the best work by a writer of color in any genre, and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. Dr. Victor’s work has been collected in numerous venues, including BOMB, the New Museum’s The Animated Reader, Crux: Journal of Conceptual Writing, The Best American Experimental Writing, POETRY, and boundary2, and has been translated into French, German, Spanish, and Czech.

Dr. Victor teaches across literary genres and aesthetic ranges at introductory and advanced levels. She also teaches advanced manuscript workshops, with an emphasis on experimental, performance-oriented, and hybrid forms of contemporary poetry. She has offered exciting courses on contemporary poetics in the graduate program. In academic year 2022-23, Dr. Victor began a three-year administrative term as director of the Creative Writing Program.

During her five years in the department, Dr. Victor has become one of its essential members, helping to reboot the creative writing minor through new initiatives and programming. Although her own practice centers on avant-garde and experimental poetry of the contemporary moment, Dr. Victor is a skilled teacher of the craft of creative writing across genres. She has developed several new courses, including introductory and advanced courses in poetry writing, the first graduate seminar on contemporary poetry and poetics, and introductory courses on creative writing and the human senses.

For her brilliant and award-winning poetry, her enthusiasm in creating new poetry and poetics courses across the undergraduate and graduate curriculums, and her commitment to teaching poetry and creative writing to students new to reading and writing it, Dr. Divya Victor is highly 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.

Maria Lapinski
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

Shan Shui Conservation Center
Represented by Lu Zhi
Community Engagement with Pastoralists on the Tibetan Plateau

Communication
College of Communication Arts and Sciences

MARIA LAPINSKI

Founder and Designated Community Partner Representative
Shan Shui Conservation Center

LU ZHI

Maria Lapinski, Professor

Members of the MSU and Shan Shui Research Team in the field.
The MSU–Shan Shui Conservation Center Partnership is a prime example of engaged scholarship. The partnership includes the non-profit Shan Shui Conservation Center in Beijing, China, and MSU’s Dr. Maria Lapinski and her on-campus MSU collaborators, Dr. John Kerr, Department of Community Sustainability, and Dr. Jinhua Zhao, Department of Economics, in the United States.

Dr. Lapinski and her colleagues have worked for years with collaborators in China, especially partners, Lu Zhi, founder of the Shan Shui Conservation Center and professor of Conservation Biology at Peking University, and Tsering Bum, Tibetan community member and field staff at the Shan Shui Conservation Center, to understand the conservation behaviors and motivations of Tibetan Pastoralists, the nomadic herders of yaks and other animals who live on and traverse the Tibetan Plateau in a way of life that is tens of thousands of years old.

The importance of conservation practices on the Plateau cannot be overstated. Five times as large as France, the Tibetan Plateau is often referred to as “the Roof of the World.” Measuring 1,600 miles long and 620 miles wide, the Plateau’s ice fields hold the largest reserve of fresh water other than that in the Polar Regions, making human activity across the Plateau important far beyond its borders. Twelve major rivers originate on the Plateau, which provides fresh water for just less than half of the current human population.

The group’s work on behalf of the Plateau’s nomadic pastoralists has meaningfully affected all the partners. The Tibetan Plateau is one of the world’s most striking and stark environments. This applied research partnership is making a difference in the lives of people living in this region by bringing their voices to conversations about conservation and contributing to the design of science-based conservation programming to help protect this land and the species that call it home. With support from the U.S. National Science Foundation, the team has engaged nomadic Tibetans and those who serve them to strengthen conservation practices that can protect the environmental integrity of the Plateau and the livelihoods of its people.

Spanning 10 years, this partnership has resulted in numerous tangible and intangible benefits, including the learning of new skills by team members, innovations in social science theories of social norms and incentives, identification and sharing of best practices for the design and implementation of conservation programs, and great friendships among team members.

On field visits to the Tibetan Plateau, the team, including Dr. Lapinski’s former doctoral student, Rain Liu, listened to and worked with community members and field staff, especially Mr. Tsering Bum, to learn about the issues most important to community members and to design appropriate studies. The team led community-based workshops to introduce conservation practices with the involvement of influential local Tibetans, and hosted train-the-trainer sessions for leaders’ community-based organizations. The project’s findings and lessons resulted in policy briefs and sets of best practices disseminated through both organizations’ networks, in-person sessions, and social media.

The MSU–Shan Shui Conservation Center Partnership has played a small part in helping to protect the iconic Tsangsum yungyul (in Tibetan) or Sanjiangyuan (in Mandarin) National Nature Reserve region and to give voice to the people who live there. For their many contributions and novel solutions for improved conservation, the Community Engagement with Pastoralists on the Tibetan Plateau Partnership is most deserving of the Community Engagement Scholarship Award.
THE PRESIDENT’S DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

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

Susan Masten

The President’s Distinguished Teaching Award is supported by an endowment from Carl and Margaret Leidholm.
Dr. Masten’s career as an educator is grounded in the discovery, integration, application and transfer of knowledge. Her research centers on discovering the mechanisms by which ozone and other oxidants react with contaminants and then determining the identity and toxicity of products formed by these reactions. Her discoveries have led to the application of ozone to drinking water treatment, odor control in animal production operations, and in situ soil remediation. Her current research focuses on the development of drinking water treatment technologies that are more effective and suitable for use in decentralized water treatment systems and the formation or release of contaminants in drinking water distribution systems.

Dr. Masten currently teaches three upper-level environmental engineering courses, although she has taught a variety of undergraduate courses, from introductory environmental engineering to the senior-level capstone design class. She actively strives to engage students in their own learning and academic development through a range of activities, including weekly homework; collaborative class exercises, either in person or using Zoom breakout rooms; more complex tutorial assignments; and collaborative mini-design projects. She has even included field trips to water and wastewater treatment plants into her classes. During the pandemic, when field trips were not feasible, she did not back off from this approach; instead, she worked with industry professionals to develop virtual field trips and presentations that simulated the highlights of in-person trips.

Knowing that learning can be achieved outside the classroom, Dr. Masten is the founding faculty advisor for Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and, since 2004, has worked with students in their efforts to improve the quality of life for people in Tanzania and other countries. Despite the pandemic, EWB students continued their work in Dar es Salaam, under Dr. Masten’s guidance, designing, managing, and assessing a rainwater collection system for a primary school. Despite being unable to travel, MSU students were able to assess water quality from the collection system, evaluate and remediate construction problems, and teach the community appropriate testing methods through collaboration with two engineering students at Ardhi University. Dr. Masten guides these experiences to help students learn to communicate effectively with a range of audiences, make ethical and professional decisions, and function effectively on a team, while improving life around the world in keeping with MSU’s values.

Dr. Masten stands tall among the finest of educators and researchers at Michigan State University, the College of Engineering, and engineering faculty across the nation. She is truly deserving of the President’s Distinguished Teaching Award.
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.

Kirk Domer

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).
Theatre
College of Arts & Letters
KIRK DOMER

The 2022-23 honoree for the Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership is truly a man for the moment. Stepping up and stepping in to take on a leadership role as the Chairperson of the Department of Theatre as an assistant professor was the start of the exceptional journey of Kirk A. Domer.

In his ten years as chairperson, Professor Domer devoted his life to the department’s expansion and building recognition of its indispensability to the university and the community. Assuming responsibility for the department as a junior faculty member demonstrated his commitment to the department and demonstrated that his leadership style was born from a deep understanding of faculty and staff needs at various stages in their careers and lives. His mantra of innovation and renovation inspired the department’s growth in new faculty, professional development, and increased enrollment in degree programs in Theatre and Dance.

A multidisciplinary award-winning professional, Professor Domer was willing to risk, reexamine, and recreate theatre at MSU as a designer, educator, and administrator. He succeeded in facility (re)design, imaginative curriculum development, and integrative academic, professional, and community-based service. His vision and commitment to the disciplinary needs and safety concerns for faculty and students inspired the Friends of Theatre at MSU to raise $1,150,000 to create a permanent home for Summer Circle Theatre, and the Kirk A. Domer Summer Circle Fellowship. Known as a financial whiz, he succeeded in optimizing limited resources to improve productions and expand programming. As an ambassador for the department, the College of Arts and Letters (CAL) development team fundraising achieved unparalleled growth in giving.

Professor Domer championed the development of innovative educational opportunities at MSU, co-designing the inaugural CAL Study Away in NYC, serving as the inaugural Creative Director for the CAL Creativity Exploratory which combines the diverse strengths of faculty and students to create unique digital projects, and co-created the Certification in College Teaching for Performing Arts. He nurtured strong relationships with community groups and professional theatres to enhance opportunities for students and community members, including the Friends of Theatre at MSU, Williamston Theatre, OpenSpot Theatre Company, Michigan Educational Theatre Association, Kennedy Center American College Theatre. OpenSpot Theatre, a theatre program for neurodiverse children and the imáGen program with Wharton Center connecting Broadway professionals
with MSU students stand as remarkable accomplishments that enrich MSU for the long term. Professor Domer collaborated across campus, serving as a board member for the MSU Employee Pride and Inclusion Coalition, coordinating inclusive excellence initiatives through the Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and serving on the CAL Inclusive Practices Committee.

Students and faculty success are tangible results of his leadership. Professor Domer’s supervisory style of respect and trust, along with his investments in their development, allowed students and faculty to grow, advance and become award winning professionals in their own rights. His collaborative spirit and interest in championing individuals is truly remarkable.

Professor Domer’s leadership is a gift. His journey to serving as Acting Associate Dean for Academic Personnel and Administration, College of Arts & Letters, department chair, author, artist, advocate and educator is a celebration of inclusion and accomplishment. Dr Kirk Domer’s success comes down to his commitment to listen and then encourage participation from all corners of the department, the community and the university, and this makes him a most worthy recipient of this year’s 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.

Katy Luchini Colbry
Erica Colón
Bess German
Michael Staton

The Distinguished Academic Staff Awards are supported by the Office of University Advancement at Michigan State University.
**Dean's Office**  
**College of Engineering**

**KATY LUCHINI COLBRY**

Dr. Katy Luchini Colbry is a caring advisor, student advocate, and nationally recognized expert in engineering education and student success. She joined the college more than a decade ago to help develop graduate recruitment and retention strategies, which now include such robust professional development programs as the Lunch and Learn series, the annual Graduate Research Symposium, and the Graduate Leadership Fellows program. Dr. Colbry also created several courses that help students develop professional skills, pursue internships, and develop proficiency at writing research publications and preparing graduate theses. Her efforts to broaden participation in engineering have been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Dr. Colbry has written dozens of peer-reviewed publications and conducted several nationally funded research projects. She currently serves as Co-PI of two NSF-funded projects that support professional skills training and seek to broaden participation in engineering graduate programs. She is also Co-PI on an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation project to increase access for Black women pursuing careers in data science. Dr. Colbry has received several awards through MSU’s Creating Inclusive Excellence program for supporting graduate affinity groups and creating new pathways for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete graduate degrees in engineering.

Dr. Colbry has volunteered for more than 20 years with Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society, serving as the director of Engineering Futures, Tau Beta Pi’s professional development program, which offers workshops to thousands of engineering students each year. During the pandemic, Dr. Colbry launched “EF Online” to continue this training remotely. In less than two years, these efforts have reached more than 2,500 engineering students and practitioners from around the world.

Dr. Colbry has earned the trust and respect of her students and colleagues, who describe her as “a dedicated and collaborative advisor and student advocate who has built relationships between units, across campus, and throughout the Big Ten to share best practices in support of engineering students. Her compassion and leadership has been indispensable for the success of graduate students in Spartan Engineering.”

Dr. Katy Luchini Colbry’s significant impact on engineering graduate students—at MSU, nationally, and around the world—make her a most deserving recipient of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.
Ms. Erica Colón has served as a head teacher at the Child Development Laboratories (CDL) for almost 20 years. Throughout her tenure, she has made a profound impact on the lives of young children and families from numerous backgrounds through outstanding teaching, innovative curriculum development, and outreach and engagement activities. In Ms. Colón’s classroom, every child is respected for who they are. A strong advocate for children and families from all backgrounds, she works closely with children enrolled through Head Start, the Great Start Readiness Program, and Early Childhood Special Education.

Ms. Colón has taught and supervised more than 700 student teachers and practicum students in early childhood education. One of the strategies she uses to teach her students is to record their activity implementation and other interactions with children. She then uses these recordings to help students review their own teaching practices, strong and weak, so they can improve.

Ms. Colón has provided extensive mentorship for her students in their curriculum development activities. For instance, she mentored one student in the development of a module toolkit on essential instructional practices in early literacy/prekindergarten. While the student was developing the toolkit, Ms. Colón met with them regularly to offer constructive feedback on the modules and their implementation in the classroom.

One of her student teacher mentees said about her impact, “Her teaching instruction is emulated in my own teaching practices each day, and I will carry my experiences from my mentorship with Ms. Colón throughout the entirety of my teaching career.”

Ms. Colón fosters the inclusive teaching of young children and has developed an anti-bias curriculum for CDL. The program invites students to examine the current anti-bias literature for young children, how these books are being used in classrooms, and the implications for anti-bias education among young children. The program also encourages teachers to consider their own biases. Ms. Colón piloted this program with her practicum students and then adapted it for use for all CDL teachers and staff. As noted by one of her colleagues, “She pushed me to consider biases I didn’t know I had and encouraged me to reflect on issues that I would rather avoid in a supportive and nurturing way.”

As an excellent teacher of young children and an exemplary teacher of teachers, Ms. Erica Colón is richly deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.
Dr. Bess German is an assistant dean in the Honors College (HC). Her job description is broad, but what she does for the college and university is even more far-reaching. Service and mission-oriented, Dr. German is, for many, the face of the Honors College.

Dr. German has become central to the Honors College in recruiting and admitting students. While she currently supervises an excellent assistant director of admissions, welcoming students to the Honors College had been one of her main roles for years. Her smile and her openness drew in students and families alike. The Honors College appeals to many students considering MSU, and this work requires extensive cooperation with the Office of Admissions—and Dr. German met the requirements needed by the university’s admissions team without pause. Through her efforts, the Honors College has been able to recruit a high percentage of out-of-state domestic students, an achievement positively acknowledged by MSU.

For many years, Dr. German has also worked closely with the Office of Admissions to direct the Alumni Distinguished Scholarship competition, which brings about 1,200 admitted students to campus each year to take a test and to compete for scholarships. This is a hallmark recruiting event for the university, and Dr. German has played a major role in helping this program succeed.

Dr. German’s work does not end, however, when students matriculate. She is the core energy behind the Honors College’s student service activities. The HC Impact program brings incoming students to MSU a week early to engage in service learning in the Lansing community. Throughout the week, students combine service with learning through teaching explaining social inequality. This engagement with the scholarly and the applied continues in their first-year—and service learning continues throughout their college career as integral to the Honors College experience. Dr. German is instrumental in this whole experience.

Dr. German has been integral to HC efforts in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) domain. She has helped the HC staff be aware of best practices, and DEI work has become normalized as something that is a part of the HC’s daily practices.

Dr. German does not do her work for personal recognition. She does it to help others be the best they can be. As one of the best people representing MSU, Dr. Bess German is most deserving of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.
Mr. Michael Staton exemplifies the principles and characteristics of what it means to be a Michigan State University Extension educator. In his 33-year career, he has made the education of field crop producers his main priority. His clients and Extension colleagues describe him as committed to excellence, people-focused, relevant, filled with integrity, balanced, open to change, sensitive to diversity, accessible, and community-based. Throughout most of his career, Mr. Staton focused on crop production in five counties. In 2010, he narrowed this focus when he became the statewide Soybean Educator. His leadership has been by example within the field crops industry and as a result, field crops producers have benefitted from his work in soybean production, farm safety, and fertility management.

Mr. Staton accomplishes his work through collaborative networks, working with producers, industry, and a campus-based specialist. In 2005 he attained affiliate status in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (now the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences), with an emphasis on fertilizer and nutrient management. During this time, he provided leadership for statewide educational program planning, promotion, implementation, and evaluation of fertilizer and nutrient management.

As the statewide Soybean Educator for the last 12 years, Mr. Staton has strengthened the collaboration of producers, the Michigan Soybean Committee, MSU, and MSU Extension. On-farm research is the cornerstone of Mr. Staton’s soybean work. Five hundred science-based and profit-driven replicated trials have been conducted on 100 farms and serve as the basis for the soybean programming efforts. Based on his expansive expertise in soybean production and management, Mr. Staton has been invited to speak at numerous conferences, field days, and summits.

People influence the lives of others in different ways. Mr. Michael Staton is one of those people who has been able to bring diverse groups together. He leads humbly by allowing others to receive credit for team accomplishments. He is willing to be a resource for other organizations by speaking at conferences and field days whenever possible.

Mr. Michael Staton is committed to excellence, genuine and humble at his core, and a most worthy recipient of the Michigan State University Distinguished Academic Staff Award.
EXCELLENCE-IN-TEACHING CITATIONS

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

Steven Gagnon
T. J. Mesyn
William Poulos
Joseph Riedy
Jonathan Spiegler
Meredith Wekesser

Excellence-in-Teaching Citations are supported by the Office of University Advancement at Michigan State University.
Mr. Steven Gagnon is a doctoral student in the Second Language Studies Program, conducting research centered on understanding how learners acquire and use grammatical constructions to better inform language teaching and materials development for Korean. Mr. Gagnon’s teaching philosophy incorporates his belief that a language teacher’s role is to help learners foster and develop their language skills so that they gain both the linguistic competency and the courage to speak in their second language. Toward this end, he works to build a student-centered environment where learners feel safe and comfortable.

Mr. Gagnon has taught Korean language courses from introductory to advanced. Because he is not a native speaker of Korean, he understands the challenges his students face when learning a new language and uses his own experiences to guide his teaching and simultaneously encourage his students to speak about their own ideas and opinions in class, in the class language.

One of Mr. Gagnon’s faculty advisors has noted, “[Mr. Gagnon] has always exhibited empathy in students’ learning processes as well as the concerns and anxieties that come with learning new languages.” Of his classes, one of his students wrote, “This was my favorite class, and I looked forward to going every day. The pace of the class was a little faster than I expected, but I learned a lot and it was very manageable.”

Mr. Gagnon’s research combines a cognitive-functional perspective on language, corpus-linguistic methodology, and state-of-the-art statistics to propel the field of second language acquisition (SLA) and pedagogy in classroom contexts. He is exploring how to bridge the long-existing gap between theory and practice in SLA in ways that align with current corpus-based methodologies. He has presented his work on Korean at the Penn State Institute for Korean Studies International Conference and received a graduate student award for his presentation. He currently has two papers under review for publication.

For his commitment to SLA research and his dedication to fostering a positive and open learning environment to enhance student confidence in language learning, Mr. Steven Gagnon is most deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-In-Teaching Citation.
T. J. MESYN

Ms. T. J. Mesyn is a doctoral candidate in the School of Journalism focusing on the use of images in education – how they are selected, how they’re presented, and how this selection and presentation constructs realities of the past, present, and future for young people. She believes that when the student surpasses the teacher, then the teacher has done their job. Ms. Mesyn’s teaching philosophy focuses on creating a humanizing environment and a comfortable spot for students to learn and to grow, a space to continually push their creativity and to ask uncomfortable questions, a space to test new ideas without fear of academic retribution, a place to thrive.

Ms. Mesyn comes from a teaching background, having spent five years as a high school social studies and English teacher before embarking on her doctoral studies. Her skill and efficacy in the classroom have resulted in her serving as instructor of record for an unprecedented six unique courses during her time as a master’s and a doctoral student, including the essential introductory reporting and writing class, a photography class, and two design courses. She has also instructed students in journalism history and news media law and ethics. These courses have covered a broad range of instructional demands: small and large, virtual and in-person, synchronous and asynchronous, introductory and advanced, skills-based, and concept-based.

One photojournalism student says a class in which Ms. Mesyn shared her award-winning self-documentary photography project about dealing with invisible disabilities “really did change my world, like it did for Ms. Mesyn.” She even gets students to appreciate history, often to their own surprise. One said of her innovatively designed journalism history class, “I really enjoyed this course more than I thought I would!” Through her creative scholarship and research in media, visual literacy, and education, Ms. Mesyn strives to carve out an inclusive, collaborative place for students to test ideas, push their creativity, and view the world from many perspectives.

For her well-documented and engaging research, her extensive and inspiring teaching, and her commitment to creating places for students to thrive, Ms. T. J. Mesyn is a most deserving recipient of the Michigan State University Excellence-In-Teaching Citation.
Mr. William Poulos is a doctoral student in the Department of Animal Science, specializing in uncovering some of the mechanisms that govern the genes, gene products, and proteins necessary for successful cell dedifferentiation and subsequent survival of cloned embryos. Mr. Poulos believes that the purpose of teaching is to enable students to apply knowledge in useful and meaningful ways, but he recognizes that to achieve that requires helping students at a basic level, including a hands-on, practical approach that avoids long, PowerPoint driven lectures.

Mr. Poulos’s research explores differential gene expression and pathway analysis of RNA-seq and proteomics data in zebrafish clones and in vitro fertilized embryos.

Mr. Poulos helps instruct students in cell and molecular biology, anatomy and physiology, reproduction, and genetics classes. His success in helping students in these classes was quickly noted by one of his faculty, who stated, in evaluating him on the challenging environment of guiding students through a research project, “Although this was [Mr. Poulos’s] first semester as a TA, he quickly rose to be one of the most engaged and reliable in the program. He asked relevant questions in the training meetings and remained calm despite the somewhat chaotic nature of the open lab, which helped reassure students that they would be able to get everything done. He could be depended on to get students feedback in a timely fashion, in ways that were sufficiently critical to push them to improve, but not so harsh as leave them feeling defeated.”

Mr. Poulos sees his teaching as following five goals, one of which is using teaching techniques in the method that works for best for the student. He was observed doing this by a faculty member, who noted, “He displays a genuine concern for student understanding. I’ve personally watched him explain the same concept three different ways when students struggled with the first two explanations.” Another professor noted, “He is especially skilled at helping students understand the logic and reasoning behind the objective and approach of each experiment. He ensures that everyone understands the tasks in group activities.”

For his to commitment to research and to conveying scientific knowledge to students in ways that help them understand the subject most fully, Mr. William Poulos is a richly deserving recipient of the Michigan State University Excellence-In-Teaching Citation.
Mr. Joseph Riedy is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology, researching the variation in levels of larval lake sturgeon predation and its association with behavior and environmental conditions. His teaching philosophy centers on engaging students in learning by not only focusing on the course concepts but also their application and importance to science and life.

Mr. Riedy’s enthusiasm for teaching and sincere interest in student success stood out to faculty he worked with, and he was personally recruited to teach in the honor’s sections of the Organismal Biology Laboratory. This enthusiasm was also recognized by his students, one of whom commented, “For the class research project, Mr. Riedy was very organized and supportive. When my group felt confused about how to analyze our data, he led us to a methodology that best suited our research question. He did not tell us what to do but advised us on the best way to do it. By displaying a thorough understanding of the course content and the mathematics behind it, Mr. Riedy was able to guide our group to the right path, leading, ultimately, to a very successful project.”

Mr. Riedy is further developing his background in undergraduate learning pedagogy through the Scholarship of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning (SUTL) Program that he participates in. He frequently considers how his SUTL research can be applied in the biological science courses to improve student-learning outcomes.

During the unexpected shift to online teaching during the pandemic, Mr. Riedy became instrumental in helping faculty design, evaluate, and revise lab activities to achieve the same learning objectives as in-person versions of the course. One of the lab courses he taught gave students experience with the entire research process in a single semester, including developing good research questions, designing protocols, data collection, and analyzing and communicating findings. Faculty noted that Mr. Riedy excelled in all aspects of mentoring students throughout this process, despite the challenges of teaching laboratory skills online.

For his excellent research promise, his commitment to work with faculty to ensure successful teaching from a variety of platforms, and his excellent ability to engage students with course material both in person and online, Mr. Joseph Riedy is sincerely deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-in-Teaching Citation.
Political Science
College of Social Science

JONATHAN SPIEGLER

Mr. Jonathan Spiegler is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science specializing in political philosophy and public policy. His teaching philosophy centers on improving his students’ ability to exercise reason and to communicate their thoughts effectively. To help students be better-informed citizens and leaders, he works to improve how they understand and critically evaluate the political community, how they fit into and are shaped by it, and how its decisions are made and affect their lives. By helping students examine and evaluate their political ideas and biases, he hopes to help them apply reason and logic to the difficult issues they encounter outside of the classroom.

A common theme in students’ evaluations of Mr. Spiegler’s teaching is his attention to making each student feel valued and heard, which helps create an inclusive community and facilitates learning. Students have especially noted his ability to guide class discussions on difficult and sensitive political topics effectively and respectfully. As one student noted, “[Mr. Spiegler] encouraged students to have their own opinions and made sure to only discuss the foundations of those opinions, rather than the opinion itself. This format gave the class a good environment for discourse rather than argument.”

Mr. Spiegler’s research focuses on questions of inequality, especially as it exists in democracies. His research questions span both theory and practice, and his dissertation research is on the thoughts of nineteenth century French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville. Specifically, he is currently working on a study of Tocqueville’s pessimistic view of the problems of racial inequality and discrimination.

Mr. Spiegler has published academic articles on the issues of homeless shelters and gun violence as well as articles for general audiences in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post’s Monkey Cage*. He has also published on a case study on gun violence designed to teach regression analysis to beginning college students.

For his exemplary contributions to teaching that help students reflect on how they form opinions, his contributions to current political discourse, and his exceptional scholarship, Mr. Jonathan Spiegler is most deserving of the Michigan State University Excellence-In-Teaching Citation.
Ms. Meredith Wekesser is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Kinesiology, studying the psychosocial aspects of sport and physical activity. An ongoing learner, Ms. Wekesser’s teaching philosophy continues to evolve based on her interactions with students, critical teaching moments, and the changing dynamics of the university. Regardless, the foundation of her teaching involves cultivating strong relationships with students, emphasizing learner-centered approaches that challenge students to take an active role in their education, and connecting course concepts to practical scenarios students may encounter in their future professions.

During her time at Michigan State, Ms. Wekesser has taught 12 different courses spanning 25 course sections, with modes of delivery including in-person and online instruction. Course topics have ranged from specific exercises or sports, sport and exercise psychology, sport sociology, health and wellness, measurement in kinesiology, and research methods. For many of these classes, Ms. Wekesser developed course outlines; designed and delivered lectures, activities, and discussions; assessed students’ progress; and met with students in weekly office hours.

To help each of her research students complete their final proposal and presentation, Ms. Wekesser collaborated with them in regular, individual meetings to help them formulate their research questions, identify appropriate research designs, and create data analysis plans.

Ms. Wekesser provides service to the teaching profession and department by mentoring new graduate teaching assistants. Additionally, she has provided several professional development trainings, workshops, and resources to graduate students to support of their teaching development.

Ms. Wekesser’s research focuses on positive youth development through sport, with an emphasis on the coach’s role in fostering environments conducive to holistic athlete development. She also ties in her strong measurement background by examining quality measurement of coaching behaviors. Ms. Wekesser has three peer-reviewed publications, one invited book chapter, and two articles currently under review. She has delivered 13 presentations at local, regional, and national conferences.

For her excellent research, robust mentorship, and exemplary teaching, Ms. Meredith Wekesser is richly 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.

Leo Kempel

The Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership is supported by the Office of University Development at Michigan State University.
Under Dr. Leo Kempel’s long-term leadership, Spartan engineers have created a better engineered, more inclusive, and sustainable world. Beginning as a faculty member in 1998, Dr. Kempel became the inaugural director of the MSU High Performance Computing Center in 2004, associate dean for special initiatives in 2006, and associate dean for research in 2008. He became dean of the college in 2014. Throughout his career, Dr. Kempel’s leadership has led the college to increase research, advance student opportunities, and expand diversity.

Dr. Kempel has focused on making the college a destination for industry to collaborate with researchers and students for almost 20 years. And the college has delivered, becoming one of MSU’s top producers of research discoveries and commercialization that help build a diversified economy and generate jobs in Michigan, the nation, and the world. In the academic year 2020-21, College of Engineering research expenditures alone reached $47 million. Spartan engineers and their work have ensured a better world in such industries as automotive, manufacturing, insurance, commercial banking, electronics and hardware, information technology, security, and more.

Dr. Kempel's commitment to student learning led to the expansion of facilities available for student research, including the 10,000 sq. ft. William A. Demmer Engineering Center that provides an on-campus facility for registered student organizations in the college and the engineering-focused, hands-on teaching and lab space in Wonders Hall.

Dr. Kempel has advanced the university’s core values of equality and inclusiveness, adding the first associate dean for inclusion and diversity to the engineering leadership team in 2018 and recruiting the highest number of women faculty in the college’s history. He leads outreach activities aimed at increasing the college’s enrollment of students from underrepresented populations and continues to empower the Future Engineers and Women in Engineering teams to expand recruitment activities and outreach. Results include greater than five percent increases in women and underrepresented minority students within undergraduate and graduate engineering and computer science programs since 2014.

For his exceptional commitment to advancing research, his commitment to students’ intellectual growth and opportunities through access to excellent facilities, and his expansive support for diversity and inclusion in engineering and computer science, Dr. Leo Kempel is most deserving of this year’s Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership.
DONALD F. KOCH AWARD FOR QUALITY IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

In recognition of outstanding undergraduate teaching.

Jaideep Taggart Singh

The Donald F. Koch Award for Quality in Undergraduate Teaching is supported by the MSU Alumni Club of Mid-Michigan and by Donald F. Koch and Barbara J. Sawyer-Koch.
As a researcher, Dr. Jaideep Taggart Singh applies atomic, molecular, and optical physics techniques to answer fundamental questions in nuclear and particle physics; he is also passionate about creating, manipulating, and detecting spin-polarized nuclei. Additionally, from the outset of his career, Dr. Singh has demonstrated a commitment to teaching, requesting to be sent to the American Physical Society’s New Faculty Workshop (NFW) almost immediately upon beginning his career at Michigan State. NFW leverages both evidence-based teaching approaches and well-established educational technologies to support new faculty members in instruction.

Dr. Singh’s attendance at this course was instrumental in developing his mode of classroom instruction, where he applies evidence-based teaching practices. This has been particularly evident in his teaching for the introductory course on electricity and magnetism, which covers electrostatics, dielectrics, magnetic fields of steady state currents, and Faraday’s law of induction. Toward this end, he implemented a lecture format featuring about 10 clicker questions per class to help keep students engaged, especially during COVID-19 and required online learning; he also implemented two homework help sessions every week in the evenings, one on zoom and one in-person to ensure student comprehension, especially during online learning.

Dr. Singh’s attendance at the NFW course was, however, but the beginning of his pursuit of teaching excellence. He attended a three-day workshop on writing across disciplines that he used to revise the Advanced Laboratory class course for physicists (AdvLab), where he redesigned the course’s writing component so it was the central thread connecting all course activities, increasing overall class comprehension. As one of his colleagues noted, “His [Dr. Singh’s] instruction has become aligned with how students learn and engage with physics ideas.” As another colleague stated, “[Dr. Singh’s] efforts are not driven by anything other than his compassion for the students he teaches. His appointment in FRIB is such that his evaluation is focused chiefly on the research he has done and the service he does for the lab; working to become an excellent instructor is something that he does because he cares about students’ experiences deeply.”

For his unwavering commitment to excellent and innovative science teaching, while continuing to conduct brilliant research, Dr. Jaideep Taggart Singh is greatly deserving of the Donald F. Koch Quality in Undergraduate Teaching Award.
FACULTY EMERITI ASSOCIATION AWARD

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

Laura Dillon

Tim Mrozowski

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.
Dedicated educators who love what they do are precious. Dedicated educators who continue their work into retirement are priceless. Professor Emeritus Laura K. Dillon, Ph.D. is devoted to the mission of expanding diversity in the College of Engineering’s Computer Science program and is active as a mentor of students and faculty to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. This year, MSU’s Faculty Emeriti Association honors Dr. Laura K. Dillon with the award for Outstanding Contributions by an Individual in 2023.

Dr. Dillon’s commitment to women, girls, and underrepresented people motivates her to lead programs which welcome and encourage learning in the field of computer science. Since her retirement in 2019, Dr. Dillon volunteered countless hours serving as a faculty advisor, supervisor and mentor to MSU students and 6th-12th grade kids in the Lansing area. She is passionate about increasing the diversity in computing fields and runs “women in coding programs” on Saturdays. This program promotes the field of computer science by involving young girls in fun coding activities with their peers. The coding program at MSU increased from one cohort of 15-20 kids to six cohorts of 15-20 kids all being taught at the same time, nationally and internationally, every Saturday morning. This progress would have been impossible without Dr. Dillon’s leadership and hard work.

This year at MSU she agreed to conduct an independent study for a student repeating a capstone class who needed accommodation to complete her degree amidst difficult personal circumstances. Dr. Dillon’s support is the embodiment of MSU’s strategic planning goal to eliminate opportunity gaps to ensure students can graduate.

A change leader, she is active in the National Council for Women in IT (NCWIT) Academic Alliance which advances innovation by underrepresentation in computing. She serves as consultant for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) which is an accrediting organization for colleges and universities in computer science. She is the lead faculty for the Center of Inclusive Computing grant and is involved in national programs to help expose more women to pursue computing careers. Dr. Dillon volunteers to help run MSU’s High School Co-ed programming competition each year. She is the lead organizer for the statewide Aspirations in Computing High School competition-Michigan affiliate.

Educator, advocate, mentor and volunteer. Dr. Dillon does it all. MSU is fortunate to have Professor Emeritus Laura K. Dillon, Ph.D. as a leader in our community.
School of Planning, Design and Construction
College of Social Science/College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

TIM MROZOWSKI

At MSU, those who can do it all, teach. Professor Emeritus Tim Mrozowski is an architect, educator, policy maker and small business owner. His commitment to teaching, sustainable energy design, and excellence in construction management are among the reasons the MSU Faculty Emeriti Association to recognize him with the award for Outstanding Contributions by an Individual in 2023.

Professor Mrozowski retired in 2018 as Construction Management Program Director and Professor from the School of Planning Design and Construction, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University after 37 years as a faculty member. His primary teaching areas included construction contracts, structural design, commercial construction assemblies, materials and methods, sustainable projects and commercial capstone. During his career he developed and taught over 25 different course subjects. From 1998-2018 he was responsible for program accreditation through the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). While at MSU he developed the Michigan Uniform Energy Code Training and Implementation Project (MECTIP) and served as its director from 2003-2018. MECTIP developed and delivered curriculum and training programs on energy codes for building officials, architects, engineers, contractors and suppliers throughout Michigan.

Professor Mrozowski continues to teach at MSU using examples from his sole-proprietor architectural practice in East Lansing. He regularly uses his knowledge of federal and state energy code to guide the MSU Industrial Assessment Center students on envelope solutions and in professional presentations to share his knowledge with his colleagues. When the pandemic hit in 2020, he seamlessly transitioned his courses to virtual instruction demonstrating his ability to adapt and create sustainable education experiences along with sustainable energy code development.

He remains active in service to the U.S. Department of Energy and the Michigan Energy Codes Collaborative. In 2022 he completed work as a subcontractor on a 2022 grant funded by State of Michigan EGLE entitled “Michigan Energy Code Collateral Materials to Improve Compliance.” An expert in his field, he literally wrote the book on Michigan energy codes. Professional Mzorowski is a sought-after consultant, presenter, trainer and mentor. His excellence brings recognition, opportunity, and innovation to MSU. His support of educators and colleagues in the interpretation and application of Michigan energy and construction code is an amazing resource he generously shares for the safety and benefit of the entire community.
ALL-UNIVERSITY AWARDS COMMITTEES

William J. Beal Outstanding Faculty Awards
- John Aerni-Flessner
- Peter De Costa
- Patricia Edwards
- Eric Freedman
- Christine Greenhow
- LaShawn Harris
- Xuefei Huang
- Teresa Mastin
- Derek Polischuk
- George Sundin
- Felica Wu

Teacher–Scholar Awards
- Shelbi Hughes
- Constance Hunt
- Deanne Kelleher
- Jack Metty
- Wyatt Schrock

Community Engagement Scholarship Award
- Farha Abbasi
- Peter Glendinning
- Wenona Singel
- Marya Sosulski
- Aklilu Zeleke

Simmons Chivukula Award for Academic Leadership
- Marilyn Amey
- Prabu David

Distinguished Academic Staff Awards
- Diane Doberneck
- Lauren McKenzie
- Stanley Moore
- Brandon Schroeder
- Jodi Schulz
- Cheryl Williams-Hecksell

Excellence-in-Teaching Citations
- Denise Acevedo
- Laura Dilley
- Prerana Gunda
- Emily Rick

Robert F. Banks Award for Institutional Leadership
- Lucinda Davenport
- Vennie Gore
- Kurt Kaufmann
- Janet Lillie
- Chris Long

Donald F. Koch Award for Quality in Undergraduate Teaching
- Seven Mattes
- Marci Mechtel
- Christopher Saffron
- Courtney Venker

Faculty Emeriti Association Awards
- John Baker, Committee Chair
- Richard Hula
- David Long
- Jane Vieth

★ Laurie A. Van Egeren, Acting Ex-Officio Chairperson
✦ Marilyn Amey, Ex-Officio Chairperson
♥ Cindi Leverich, Ex-Officio Chairperson
◆ Katie Rundblad, Faculty Honoritics Coordinator