

2010 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

TEXAS A&M'S HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL HONOR

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ince 1955, Texas A&M University and The Association of Former Students have recognized the most deserving faculty and staff members with the university's highest professional honor—the University-Level Distinguished Achievement Awards. This year's 24 recipients were chosen for their stellar performances in teaching, research, student relations, continuing education, staff service and graduate student mentoring. They now join the ranks of the more than 882 members of the Aggie family who have been honored with the award since its inception. The Distinguished Achievement Award is an award of excellence, and each of the 24 recipients is more than worthy of the distinction. Please join us as we congratulate the recipients of the 2010 University-Level Distinguished Achievement Awards.



TEACHING



Dr. Louise Abbott
Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

Abbott has maintained a funded research program in brain development and degeneration for more than 20 years, published more than 60 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, serves on the editorial boards of two toxicology journals and trained 13 master's or doctoral graduate students. "Dr. Abbott was constantly going above and beyond to help her students," a former student said. "Her enthusiasm for teaching showed every day. She would get excited when you got the right answer, and encouraged you to figure it out when you got the wrong answer. One of the best professors I have ever had for sure."



Dr. Harold Boas
Professor, Department of Mathematics

Boas received his Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT in 1980, joined Texas A&M University in 1984 and was promoted to full professor in 1992. He is a recipient of The Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Research, the Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence, and the

TAMU Mathematics Department's Awards for Outstanding Teaching, and Outstanding Service. An honors mentor in the department, who was assigned to meet with students every week to answer their questions, said, "In these recitations, I found myself trying to emulate the man whose teaching I so highly respect."



Dr. Doug Slack
Regents Professor, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences

Although an expert on coastal birds, Slack is best known by thousands of students for his unique and memorable classroom presentations that include colorful stories and exciting presentations. His efforts in the classroom have been recognized by two College-Level Distinguished Teaching Awards and an Award in Excellence for Undergraduate Teaching. "He has devoted as much effort to work with student clubs as he has to his regular teaching load, and his 'beyond normal working hours' service exceeds the time spent by many faculty on their normal teaching loads," a colleague wrote in the nomination packet.



Dr. Debra L. Zoran '97
Associate Professor, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences

Zoran, an expert in canine and feline internal medicine and in nutritional management, is an outstanding teacher in both areas. She provides more than 60 lectures yearly in the veterinary curriculum, and she teaches senior students on clinical rotations for 24 weeks per year—a full-time commitment to patient care and teaching. She has received the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Teaching Award and was named Western Veterinary Conference Educator of the Year (Small Animal) for 2009. She earned a doctorate in nutrition from Texas A&M University in 1997.



Dr. Patricia Goodson
Professor, Department of Health & Kinesiology

Early in her academic career, Goodson became known for using "team-based learning" as a teaching strategy, and for her successful mentoring of graduate students in the Department of Health and Kinesiology. Her teaching has earned her both The Association of Former Students' College-Level Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching and the Montague-Center for Teaching Excellence Scholar Award. "She is one of our most outstanding scholars, teachers, and mentors, particularly at the graduate level," a colleague said of her. "She is commonly referred to by her students as the best professor they have ever had."

The Distinguished Achievement Award is an award of **excellence...**



Mr. James M. Olson

Senior Lecturer, George Bush School of Government & Public Service

Olson was a U.S. spy against the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War, received three of the CIA's highest awards, and his exploits have been the basis for novels and films. He became a senior lecturer at A&M in 2000. His classes always reach enrollment ceilings, and student evaluations consistently rank him one of the school's best. He has received the school's coveted Silver Star Award and The Association of Former Students College-Level Distinguished Teaching Award. He devotes enormous time to mentoring students and former students, including many from outside the Bush School who have discovered him.



Marvin Adams

Professor, Department of Nuclear Engineering

Adams enthusiastically enjoys the three major roles that he plays as a professor: teaching, research, and service.

Adams is recognized around the world for his expertise in particle transport theory and in methods for computational simulation of complex

physical phenomena. He regularly participates in, and often leads, detailed studies that inform decision-makers in U.S. defense and intelligence organizations. "With all the big and important things he was being called to in Washington, he still made the effort to come back to College Station and teach us," a student wrote. "He is the best professor I have this semester. He is always prepared for class, knows his material very well, and is willing to put in extra time to help his students learn."



Dr. John Siebert

Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics

In 14 years at Texas A&M, Siebert has taught 112 sections of four different courses and more than 7,900 students. He is well known for his ability to engage and motivate students and also for his dedication to their success. "Dr. Siebert has dedicated his career to teaching excellence," a colleague wrote in a nomination letter. "He not only sets a high standard of excellence in his own classroom teaching, he promotes teaching excellence among his colleagues. His advice and counsel are regularly sought by both current and former students."

Dr. Sandra Lampo '01

Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing

Over the past seven and a half years, Dr. Lampo has taught seven different courses, including honors sections and required courses and electives at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, with class sizes ranging from 20



to 130. Each day, Lampo strives in her classrooms to lead students outward, open their minds, and teach them how to reach out and get an education. "Her enthusiasm for the subject was a breath of fresh air," a student wrote. "I really looked forward to class and feel like I learned a lot." Another called her "the most exciting professor I have ever had!"



Dr. Guy Curry

Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering

Curry is a favorite among students, and in 1999, 2003 and 2004, he was chosen as "The Most Valuable Professor" by students. He received The Association of Former Students College-Level Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching in 2007. He was recognized internationally when he was awarded the 2006 Albert G. Holzman Distinguished Educator Award by the Institute of Industrial Engineers. That prestigious award recognizes significant contributions to the profession through career accomplishments in teaching excellence, research, publication, extension, innovation and administration.

RESEARCH



Dr. Kevin Burgess

Professor, Department of Chemistry

Burgess' research program is characterized by a series of contributions in diverse areas of scientific research. He is the leader in the development of organic fluorescent dyes for monitoring protein interaction in cells. Burgess was the recipient of an NIH Career Development Award and a Sloan Fellowship. He was editor for the book *Solid Phase Syntheses*, chaired the Gordon Research Conference on Combinatorial Chemistry, and was regional editor for the *Journal Tetrahedron Asymmetry* for several years. "He runs a vibrant and productive research group, and has consistently maintained an enviable level of excellence," a colleague said.



Dr. Jan N. Hughes

Professor, Department of Educational Psychology

Hughes' research focuses on the development, assessment and treatment of children's social, emotional and behavioral disorders, and on the prevention of conduct problems

in youth. She is one of three individuals to ever receive the American Psychological Association Division of School Psychology's highest awards for outstanding contributions in both research and service to school psychology. In her nomination packet, a colleague wrote, "Dr. Hughes' work on aggressive children in the 1990s has changed the understanding of how aggressive children perceive themselves and of how to intervene effectively with such children in schools to promote positive behavior and learning."



Dr. Craig Kallendorf

Professor, Department of English

Kallendorf's research focuses on the classical tradition, particularly on how the language, literature, and culture of antiquity have shaped post-classical culture. His scholarship has explored the reception of the Roman poet Virgil, a major author at the center of western education for centuries. His recent Oxford monograph has transformed understanding of how Virgil's poetry was read in the early modern period, showing that it helped crystallize a wider range of political and ideological forces that earlier scholars had recognized. He has received college-level awards in both teaching and research.

Dr. Bruce A. McCarl

Distinguished and Regents Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics

McCarl's outstanding research program has been recognized with an impressive list of awards that place him in the highest echelons of



his profession.

He was a participant in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize given to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He has published 199 journal articles, seven books, 42 book chapters, 63 station bulletins/government reports, and 89 selected papers. "He has an outstanding track record of research achievement and publication, and has been a strong influence on other agricultural and resource economists," a colleague said.



Dr. William J. Murphy

Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

"The research questions that Dr. Murphy poses are sophisticated, critical questions about the evolution of mammalian species," a colleague wrote in a nomination letter. "The work addresses fundamental questions about the origin of Y chromosomal genes, about the phylogeny of early mammalian species, and about processes of genome evolution." His research interests include mapping and annotating the domestic cat genome, studying the Y chromosome of cats and dogs, and seeking to understand the underlying genetic and environmental changes that contribute to diversification and

extinction of mammalian populations and species.



Dr. Richard L. Street, Jr.
Professor and Head, Department of Communication

Over the past 25 years, Street has developed an extensive program of research examining issues related to health care provider/patient communication, medical outcomes, and strategies for increasing patient involvement in care. Dr. Street also has explored various ways information and telecommunication technology innovations can be used to enhance health services offered to patients. “Professor Street’s scholarship has had a profound impact on researchers and educators in both communication and medicine,” a colleague said of him. “Professor Street is a pioneer who was among the first in the communication discipline to integrate communication concepts, models, and methods to study and improve health care provider-patient communication processes and outcomes.”

STAFF

Ms. Tonna Harris-Haller
Associate Director, Department of Biology

Harris-Haller has 29 years of service to Texas A&M. She wrote the lab manuals for several large-scale teaching courses, wrote and continually updates a faculty handbook for teaching faculty, developed numerous lab exercises for several courses to ensure students understanding of major concepts, and is constantly searching for ways to improve the



teaching mission of the Department of Biology. One colleague states, “While the magnitude of Tonna’s responsibilities is immense, she is personally dedicated to assuring that every aspect of the Biology Lower Division Program is eagerly and effectively serving the needs of TAMU, our students and faculty.”



Ms. Chloe Rape
Assistant to the Assistant Provost, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academics

In Rape’s 38 years at A&M, countless students—and their families, friends, and supporters—have benefited from her assistance, both on the admission side and the graduation side of their Aggie experience. However, only a very few of these individuals know who managed—behind the scenes—to connect them to a counselor, pass along critical information, or expedite assistance provided by others. “Chloe Rape is a tremendous lady with impeccable character,” a colleague said. “She has established a strong network of collegial relations through the University and donor community, and she is always positive and upbeat and very willing to work with students, colleagues, and donors alike.”

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS



Mariam Al-Mannaie
Director of Student and Community Relations, Texas A&M University at Qatar

Al-Mannaie has worked at TAMUQ for six years and has done a great deal in the areas of recruitment, current and former student relations, as well as community relations. “She is extremely involved with former students,” a colleague said, “having periodic meetings with them, involving them in University events, assigning them the position of Aggie Ambassadors to be the bridge between their respective companies and TAMUQ, and helping them find employment opportunities.”



Ms. Patty Edwards
Texas A&M University at Galveston, Department of Marine Biology

Edwards, who teaches three courses each semester and coaches the Texas A&M University rowing team, is well known as a top academic advisor in marine biology and is highly sought after by the students for her advising ability. After Hurricane Ike, she relo-

cated to College Station for four days a week, leaving a husband and two very young children at home, so that she could support the students and continue the rowing program in College Station. Through her commitment to students, the members of the rowing team have developed into some of the finest students on the Galveston campus, many of them winning campus-wide leadership awards.

ADMINISTRATION



Dr. Karan Watson
Interim Provost, Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President for Academics

“As the senior administrator at Texas A&M University for promotion and tenure issues, she has been able to clearly define the university’s expectation to both faculty and department heads,” one department head wrote in a nomination letter. “Without her counsel, many faculty would not have received academic advancement.” Watson joined the faculty of Texas A&M University in 1983 and is currently a Regents Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Prior to her appointment in July 2009 as interim provost, she had served as vice provost, dean of faculties and associate dean for graduate studies in the Dwight Look College of Engineering.

GRADUATE MENTORING

Dr. Katherine Miller
Professor of Communication, Department of Communication

“Her work in mentoring graduate students has gone far beyond



the limits of their degree work,” a colleague said. “Dr. Miller brings a particular insight to mentoring and collaborating with her students. She demonstrates that good researchers routinely need to push the boundaries of what they know.” She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the areas of communication theory, organizational communication, health communication, and family communication, served as director of graduate studies from 2004 to 2009, and has directed 27 doctoral dissertations. Miller’s scholarly work investigates critical issues at the intersection of organizational, health, and family communication.



Dr. James Womack
Professor of Pathobiology, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology

One of his colleague’s describes Dr. Womack’s strengths: “Longevity, consistency, quality, and variety!” Womack, who has been employed at Texas A&M for 32 years, has published, with students and associates, more than 330 peer reviewed articles in scientific journals. His research interests are comparative genomics, mapping the bovine genome, and the genetic basis of disease resistance in mammals. He is a member of the

National Academy of Sciences USA, a Fellow in the AAAS, and recipient of the 1994 CIBA Prize for research in animal health and the 2001 Wolf Prize in Agriculture. He received the Bush Excellence Award for International Research in 2008.

EXTENSION, OUTREACH, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Dr. Robert “Jay” Woodward
Director of the Youth Adventure Program, Department of Educational Psychology

Through his outreach efforts with Youth Adventure Program, a career exploration summer camp, Woodward has personally welcomed more than 1,650 gifted and talented adolescents into College Station to experience the best of what Texas A&M has to offer. In his tenure as director, Jay has broadened the appeal and impact of this program, expanding course offerings and enrollment each summer. “Dr. Woodward has transformed this program into a highly sought-after experience for young people who are interested in learning about different careers, while immersing themselves in the rich culture and traditions TAMU has to offer,” a colleague said.