Salute to Faculty Excellence

April 19, 2022
High-quality faculty members are hallmarks of a great university. Their impact on student success and the research enterprise makes them one of the most valuable resources on campus. Nowhere is their influence more profound than here at UNT, where more than 1,700 dedicated faculty members provide great learning opportunities in a supportive environment, engage in cutting-edge research, and enhance the image of the university through their work every day.

Salute to Faculty Excellence is just one of the many ways UNT honors the outstanding faculty members who help continue our tradition of prestige. We are especially grateful for the vision and commitment of the UNT Foundation in its support of four faculty awards and tonight’s special celebration. As a partner in our success, the UNT Foundation enhances the educational mission of our institution by accepting, investing, and managing private gifts, endowed funds, and other assets for the benefit of the university and our students.
Order of Events

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
Michael McPherson, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME
Neal Smatresk, UNT President

GREETINGS FROM THE UNT FOUNDATION
Cathy Bryce, Board Chair, UNT Foundation

PRESENTATION OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY AWARDS
Holly Hutchins, Vice Provost for Faculty Success
Michael McPherson

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
UNT Trombone Consortium
Conducted by Professor Tony Baker
Performing "First Class" by Steven Verhelst

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS
Neal Smatresk

PRESENTATION OF UNT FOUNDATION AWARDS
Mike Mlinac, President and CEO, UNT Foundation

CLOSING REMARKS
Michael McPherson
Professional Awards and Accomplishments

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
Kamesh Namuduri
- Distinguished Lecturer, Vehicular Technology Society, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

King Man Siu
- Star Reviewer Award, Journal of Emerging and Selected Topics in Power Electronics, IEEE

MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
Diana Berman
- 2021 Early Career Development Award, National Science Foundation

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC SERVICE

AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
Katsura Aoyama
- Public Service Award, Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER SCIENCE
Laura Siebeneck
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award, Federal Emergency Management Agency Higher Education Program

Gary Webb
Professional Awards and Accomplishments

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ENGLISH

Angela Calcaterra
– National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship

Aja Martinez
– 2021 Vision Award Inaugural Winner, Coalition for Community Writers, for Counterstory: The Rhetoric and Writing of Critical Race Theory

John Peters
– 2021 Adam Gillon Book Award in Conrad Studies, The Joseph Conrad Society of America

Priscilla Ybarra
– 2021-2022 Clements Senior Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America, Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University
– 2021-2022 Rethink Outside Fellow, Blue Sky Funders Forum

HISTORY

Wesley Phelps
– 2021 Fellow of the East Texas Historical Association

Olga Velikanova
– 2021 Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship

MEDIA ARTS

Jacqueline Vickery
– Honorific Award for the Community Media Project of North Texas, National Endowment of the Arts
Professional Awards and Accomplishments

COLLEGE OF MUSIC

COMPOSITION STUDIES

Sungji Hong

– First Prize, Kazimierz Serocki 17th International Composers’ Competition, Polish Society for Contemporary Music and ISCM Polish Section funded by the Ministry of Culture in Warsaw, Poland
– 2021 Winner, National Flute Association Young Artist Competition, for Solo Flute Performance of "Vidimus Stellam"

INSTRUMENTAL STUDIES

Kimberly Cole Luevano

– Classical Commissioning Grant, Chamber Music America
– Commissioning Grant with Composer David Biedenbender, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition of Brigham Young University
Professional Awards and Accomplishments

COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN

DESIGN

Hae Jin Gam
– Best Paper in Apparel, Textiles, and Merchandising, 2021 Annual Conference of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Douglas May
– One Gold Award, Two Silver Awards and Three Honorable Mention Awards in the Protest Poster 2 Competition, Graphis Inc.

Stephen Zhang
– Best of Show for Together at the 14th Annual Watermedia Showcase, Artists Network and Watercolor Artist Magazine
– Best of Show (Kenneth M. Shuck Memorial $3,000 Cash Award) for Hidden, Watercolor USA 2021, Springfield Art Museum
– Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Watercolor Award for Granada, 2021 Transparent Watercolor Society of America 45th Annual National Exhibition

NEW COLLEGE

MARKETING

Seth Ketron
– 2021 Outstanding Reviewer of the Year, Journal of Product and Brand Management
University Faculty Awards

SERVICE AWARDS

CITATION FOR DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD
International Affairs

Ram Dantu
Computer Science and Engineering

PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL UNIVERSITY SERVICE AWARD
Faculty Senate

Jeffrey J. Rous
Economics
University Faculty Awards

TEACHING AWARDS

DSI-CLEAR OUTSTANDING ONLINE COURSE AND TEACHING AWARD
Digital Strategy and Innovation
Kara Fulton
Applied Arts and Sciences

DSI-CLEAR OUTSTANDING COURSERA COURSE AND TEACHING AWARD
Digital Strategy and Innovation
Susan Watson
Applied Arts and Sciences

PIPER PROFESSOR AWARD NOMINEE
Faculty Senate
Christopher J. Fuhrmann
History

PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL TEACHING AWARDS
Faculty Senate
Sandra C. Mendiola García
History
Nora Gilbert
English

J.H. SHELTON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
Faculty Senate
Janice A. Hauge
Economics
University Faculty Awards

RESEARCH AWARDS

EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY
Research and Innovation

Diana Berman
Materials Science and Engineering

TEACHER SCHOLAR AWARD
Research and Innovation

Jeffrey S. Doty
English

CREATIVE IMPACT AWARD
Research and Innovation

Jon C. Nelson
Composition Studies

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AWARD
Research and Innovation

Francis D'Souza
Chemistry

TOULOUSE SCHOLAR AWARD
Toulouse Graduate School

Tao Zhang
Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation
University Faculty Awards

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AWARDS

ULYS AND VERA KNIGHT FACULTY MENTOR AWARD
Alexandra Ponette-González
Geography and the Environment

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PROFESSOR AWARD
Geoffrey Wawro
History

PRESIDENTIAL EARLY CAREER PROFESSOR AWARD
Lu Liang
Geography and the Environment

ADJUNCT AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
Stella L. Reed
Spanish
University Faculty Awards

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AWARDS

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR AWARDS

Laura Evans
Art Education

Brian A. Lain
Communication Studies

Todd Moye
History

Jill Talbot
English

Duncan Weathers
Physics

REGENTS PROFESSOR AWARDS

Suliman M. Hawamdeh
Information Science

Marco Buongiorno Nardelli
Physics

Dee Ray
Counseling and Higher Education
University Faculty Awards

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

UNT COMMUNITY AWARDS

Matthew Fry
Geography and the Environment

Kashif Saeed
Information Technology and Decision Sciences

PRESIDENT’S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Kristina Caswell MacMullen
Conducting and Ensembles
The following four awards are sponsored by the UNT Foundation and highlight the accomplishments of our university’s most distinguished scholars and leaders. Each award recipient receives a monetary reward and a commemorative medallion.

In service of UNT’s educational mission, the UNT Foundation acts as a steward of privately contributed resources, ensuring they are utilized in accordance with donor intent and maintained separately from public funds. In addition to its support of the UNT Foundation Awards, the endowments and other gifts managed by the Foundation help fund faculty research, chair appointments, professorships, student scholarships, and other university initiatives.
The UNT Foundation Outstanding Lecturer Award recognizes a full-time lecturer who has made significant and sustained contributions to the university as evidenced by the quality of the recipient’s teaching and service.

**Leslie R. Roberts**
Public Administration

Leslie R. Roberts is a principal lecturer in the Department of Public Administration. She earned a B.A. in Communication from the University of Oklahoma and a J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law. She also earned a graduate certificate in dispute resolution from Southern Methodist University.

Professor Roberts began her law practice as in-house counsel for companies including Hilti (U.S.), Hilti AG (Liechtenstein), and Mary Kay. She has been responsible for managing a wide variety of corporate issues while serving as senior legal counsel and director of international government relations in the U.S. and in many overseas markets, including China, Russia, the EU, Canada, and Mexico. She was deeply involved in major negotiations with local, state (equivalent), and national governments to permit the companies to conduct business in China and Russia.

Professor Roberts began serving UNT students as an adjunct instructor in 2006, becoming a full-time senior lecturer in 2011 before being promoted to principal lecturer. She developed most of the program’s online courses to integrate important experiential skill-building opportunities for students, and she has a keen eye for the role that predictability plays in student success. Above all, she values the growth she sees in her students and enjoys advising them on their next step toward law or graduate school, a for-profit or nonprofit organization, or government agency.

Since joining UNT, Professor Roberts has provided training and services to nonprofit, for-profit, and local government entities including CASA of Collin County, Denton County Bar Association, Toyota Motors North America, and the City of Denton.
UNT Foundation Awards

Community Engagement Award

The UNT Foundation Community Engagement Award recognizes faculty who have the sensitivity to understand and work across organizational boundaries and the leadership to build bridges among community institutions.

Jennifer L. Callahan & Camilo J. Ruggero
Psychology

Over the past several years — and especially since the onset of the pandemic — Dr. Callahan and Dr. Ruggero have worked extensively with community partners across the region to redress access to care disparities across North Texas. With grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)'s Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program, they have worked with community partners to place doctoral level trainees in health service psychology into health professional shortage areas. Those trainees have provided over 3,700 hours of psychotherapy and 1,440 hours of psychological assessment services to more than 1,000 North Texans in our region. With nearly $75,000 in funding from the Lupe Murchison Foundation, Drs. Callahan and Ruggero also have been working hard to seed a diverse training-to-workforce pipeline. They have engaged nearly 2,000 McNair Scholars and members of other national academic groups nationwide with virtual and in-person outreach efforts and education regarding health disparities. Recognizing that such efforts are still insufficient to meet the needs of North Texas, Drs. Callahan and Ruggero also have curated a clearinghouse of mental health resources to facilitate access to needed care.
Jennifer L. Callahan earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, completed her internship and postdoctoral training at Yale University School of Medicine, and holds board certification in clinical psychology. She is a professor in the Department of Psychology, where she directs the Evidence-based Training and Competencies Research Lab and, with Dr. Ruggero, is co-director of the Center for Psychosocial Health Disparities Research.

Dr. Callahan is a multi-year recipient of awards from the National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, served as a liaison to the American Psychological Association’s Deep Poverty Initiative, and was recognized with the UNT Ulys and Vera Knight Faculty Mentor Award in 2015. She has authored more than 140 publications and is the current editor-in-chief of the Journal of Psychotherapy Integration, which is working with the World Health Organization to improve patient care in underserved areas.

Camilo J. Ruggero grew up in Texas and received his B.A. from the Plan II Honors Program at the University of Texas-Austin and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Miami. He completed an internship and a National Institute of Mental Health-sponsored research fellowship at Brown University.

He is a professor of psychology and directs the Mood and Psychopathology (MAP) Research Lab, which explores the phenomenology and risk factors associated with mood and related disorders. He also is co-director of the Center for Psychosocial Health Disparities Research with Dr. Callahan. Dr. Ruggero has published more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts in top-tier journals (including JAMA Psychiatry and Psychological Assessment) and has led multiple federal and state sponsored projects to increase understanding of mental health and improve delivery of care.
UNT Foundation Awards

Faculty Leadership Award

The UNT Foundation Faculty Leadership Award acknowledges a faculty member who significantly impacts the academic enterprise through initiatives, leadership, and service.

Christy A. Crutsinger
Merchandising and Digital Retailing

Christy Crutsinger, professor in the Department of Merchandising and Digital Retailing, is a long-time UNT faculty member and academic leader. Throughout her 34-year career, she has held numerous administrative appointments including department chair, associate dean, vice provost for faculty success, and vice provost for academic affairs.

Driven by a passion for people and helping others succeed, Dr. Crutsinger developed and implemented a wide range of university initiatives that serve students, faculty, and staff. As UNT’s faculty athletic representative, she supports the academic well-being of over 300 student athletes. She also, in partnership with UNT Athletics, launched the Faculty/Staff Spotlight program. In Fall 2019, she envisioned a new Transformational Leadership Academy for undergraduate students in the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism that focuses on career preparation through industry engagement. This initiative is yet another testament to her longstanding commitment to student success and to the Mean Green.

As UNT’s first vice provost for faculty success, Dr. Crutsinger established programs that continue to nurture faculty growth, collaboration, and recognition, including the Chair Academy, the Leadership Fellows Program, the Faculty Mentoring Grant Program, and the Salute to Faculty Excellence Awards celebration.
About the UNT Foundation
Eminent Faculty Award

In addition to receiving a commemorative medallion, the Eminent Faculty Award winner also is presented with a bronze eagle sculpture, which is displayed in the honoree’s department throughout the year to publicly recognize the recipient’s accomplishments and acknowledge the support of colleagues, administrators, students, and staff. Unlike other awards, the bronze eagle travels from department to department as new winners are announced each year, creating a legacy of pride across the institution.

The UNT Foundation commemorative bronze eagle was designed by Stan Briney, a local artist, retired physician, and former department chair at the UNT Health Science Center. Commissioned by the inaugural Salute to Faculty Excellence committee, Briney’s work captures the excellence and rich history of our institution.
UNT Foundation Awards

Eminent Faculty Award

The UNT Foundation Eminent Faculty Award recognizes a faculty member who has made outstanding, sustained contributions to scholarly-creative activity, teaching, and service. The Eminent Faculty Award is one of the highest faculty achievements, and its recipient serves as an inspiration for the entire UNT community.

James H. Kennedy
Biological Sciences

James Kennedy, Regents Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, earned his Ph.D. in aquatic ecology at Virginia Tech. Following graduate school, Dr. Kennedy began a career in aquatic toxicology, assessing the impacts of pesticides on freshwater ecosystems. He founded Water Science Associates Inc., where he worked with the agriculture chemical industry and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the risk assessment of pesticides. In 1987 he began his career at UNT as a research scientist, where he developed the UNT Water Research Field Station and continued his research on pesticide aquatic ecosystem interactions. Initially developed on leased property, the field station’s research projects generated the funds to purchase the Station for UNT. Today the field station is used as an outdoor classroom and ecological research facility.

Over the past 15 years, much of Dr. Kennedy’s research has been conducted in Chile’s Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic Regions, studying climate change. In this role, he has provided leadership in establishing UNT’s Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program in Chile and collaborations with the University of Magallanes, where he served as a Fulbright Scholar in the Senior Specialist Program. In 2018, Dr. Kennedy received the UNT Citation for Distinguished International Service. In recognition of his teaching and mentoring, Dr. Kennedy was named a University Distinguished Teaching Professor, an honor that was eventually superseded by a Regents professorship. He received the Outstanding Service Award in 2018 from the UNT McNair Scholars program. None of these accomplishments happened in isolation — Dr. Kennedy credits a phenomenal group of mentors, a wide range of collaborators, timely opportunities, and an outstanding series of students over the years for his career successes.
Reflections on James Kennedy

"Jim Kennedy publishes a lot. He gets a lot of grant money. But that's not what you know about him first — and it's not even what you know about him second or third. What you know is that he's home for a lot of grad students and a lot of people. People find him and they find a place with him. I've heard that leadership is not about being at the top of something or being an authority. It's about each decision you make and how you put others first in your daily and hourly interactions. And I don't know if Jim is conscious of doing that, but I am conscious of him doing that — and I think others are, too. He's just a really good citizen of humanity, and he's been that way for decades."

Steve Wolverton
Professor and Chair, Geography and the Environment

"Dr. Kennedy was interdisciplinary before it was really an articulated goal of our university. We met because I first asked him to see some specimens from the Natural Heritage Collection for my own work, but it quickly expanded into a collaborative experience. We organized a series of projects where students could use the collection as a springboard for their work.

At the core of that experience, we were interested in the common notion between visual arts and the sciences. How observation, the act of looking closely at things, can lead to a greater understanding of the world. I'm not a biologist, so I can't speak about what he means to his field. But in the arts, I think that one of the things he does is summarized by a short line by William Blake: 'To see a world in a grain of sand.' That's what I see in Dr. Kennedy. He could look at an insect and take from that insect important information about the world."

Lari Gibbons
Professor, Studio Art

"If we look at Jim Kennedy's successes in the areas of teaching, research, and service, it's more how he does it than what he does. I think that's the greatest effect he's had on UNT — that collegiality, always willing and able to do things, no matter what it was.

He has probably educated hundreds, if not thousands, of students, and he teaches a rigorous course. But he's always there to help them, to make sure they get over the rough spots and accomplish the mission. And I think they're better citizens for it. His work has some immediate benefits in science right now, but I think his long-term benefits are going to go to the students he's interacted with."

Art Goven
Professor, Biological Sciences

"The thing that I think makes Jim's teaching so extraordinary is the amount of personal attention he gives each of his students. He's not just showing up to lectures. He's never happier than when he's either outside standing in water with a net, side by side with a student catching something or sitting next to them at a microscope. That's what really makes his teaching unique. If you're willing to put in the time, he's going to match it, one to one, every time."

Brian Wheeler
Senior Program Project Coordinator, Elm Fork Education Center
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