



University of Houston
DOWNTOWN

CELEBRATING OUR DOWNTOWN STARS!

**2024 Faculty Awards
Ceremony**

APRIL 16, 2024



**BUILDING ON OUR PAST
SHAPING OUR FUTURE**

WELCOME

Dr. Jerry Johnson,
Faculty Senate President-Elect

REMARKS FROM UHD PRESIDENT

Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D.

SENATE REPORT

Dr. Bernardo Pohl
Faculty Senate President

FACULTY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Dr. Krista Gehring
Chair

UNIVERSITY-FUNDED FACULTY LEAVE AWARDS COMMITTEE

Dr. William Waters
Chair

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND ORCA AWARDEES RECOGNITION

Dr. Judith Quander
AVP for Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Dr. Shishen Xie
Chair

RECOGNITION OF FACULTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Deborah Bordelon
Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

OUTSTANDING ADJUCT

Margaret Mata
English

OUTSTANDING LECTURER

Vaishali Chaubal
Natural Sciences

Albert DeJesus-Rivera
History, Humanities & Languages

Zeenat Mitha
Arts & Communication

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Liza Barros-Lane
Social Work

Laura Cesarco Eglin
English

Steve Zhou
General Business, Marketing & Supply Chain

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Ronald Beebe
Urban Education

Travis Crone
Social Sciences

Heather Goltz
Social Work

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Godwin Agboka
English

Anthony Foster
Social Sciences

Andrew Pavelich
History, Humanities & Languages

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Godwin Agboka
English

Windy Lawrence
Arts & Communication

UNIVERSITY-FUNDED FACULTY LEAVE AWARDS

Dr. Kristin Anderson

Professor of Psychology

Department of Social Sciences

This project synthesizes decades of social psychological research on prejudice and discrimination. It also draws on multiple related disciplines in the social sciences and humanities and communicates across those diverse disciplines. This book should be a useful compilation of current research and its utility in understanding recent events and the political climate in the US.

Dr. Susan Henney

Professor of Psychology

Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Henney plans to complete a coauthored, 16-chapter textbook, entitled *Mind-Body Wellness: A Science-Based Approach*. This textbook, [as the only one of its kind available for use in an introductory undergraduate course on mind-body wellness] will occupy a needed, but currently unoccupied, niche in the wellness space and will bring attention to the new Health and Wellness concentration in the HBS degree.

Dr. Yu-Han Hung

Associate Professor of Education

Department of Urban Education

Dr. Hung's study explores how history teacher educations in Korea, Japan, and Taiwan, have prepared pre-service teachers to teach difficult topics in the past decades. This study, which will produce two publishable manuscripts, is a continuation of two-and-a-half years of collaboration with Drs. Jongsung Kim, and Hiromi Kawaguchi from Hiroshima University and will create connections between UHD and Hiroshima University.

Dr. Danya Serrano

Associate Professor of Psychology

Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Serrano plans to write and to submit three manuscripts for publication. Her research examines mental and physical health issues relevant to UHD students to improve student services, specifically with the Latinx population. Dr. Serrano will “further our understanding of the mental health challenges and utilization of mental health resources among Latinx college students to inform the development of accessible and culturally sensitive mental health resources and services on college campuses and the University of Houston-Downtown, specifically.”

Dr. Hsiao-Ming Wang

Professor of Criminal Justice

Department of Criminal Justice

Dr. Wang’s interest lies in producing a textbook geared toward UHD students. He specifically shows a concern for a textbook, ‘aiming for non-traditional criminal justice students, who have historically struggled with the material.’ Dr. Wang shows an acute understanding of location and context and a desire to create, ‘a much easier-to-read textbook in statistics with a more appropriate volume of content and practical exercises.’

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AWARDS

Dr. Ayden Adler, Assistant Professor of Arts Administration
16th Annual Global Peter Drucker Forum and Chumir Foundation Arts
Advisory Board Meetings in Vienna, Austria

Dr. Stephanie Babb, Professor of Psychology
Metacognitive Strategies, Motivation, and Academic Achievement
in Nontraditional College Students

Dr. Pauline Blaimont, Lecturer of Natural Sciences
Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience Attendance Proposal

Dr. Kevin Buckler, Professor of Criminal Justice
Developing Competence and Mastery in Qualitative and Interpretive
Analysis and Popular Culture Studies

Dr. Laura Cesarco Eglin, Assistant Professor of English
Educator Professional Development: VI Jordanas ALCESXXI (Asociación
Internacional de Literatura y Cine Españoles Siglo XXI)

Dr. Song Ge, Assistant Professor in Nursing
Application to attend the 2014 Symposium on Artificial Intelligence for
Learning Health Systems

Dr. Krista Gehring, Professor of Criminal Justice
Sententia Gamification Certification: Level 3 Gamification Master Craftsman

Dr. Angela Goins, Assistant Professor of Social Work
Attendance at The Aging & Social Change: Fourteenth Interdisciplinary
Conference-Diversity Over Time: Changes in Individual, Organizational,
and Place Contexts, September 19-20, 2024, University of Galway, Ireland

Dr. Heather Goltz, Professor of Social Work
Enhancing Teaching in Research and Data Analysis in Emerging Areas
of the Social/Behavioral Sciences: Dyadic Data Analysis Training

Dr. Mahmud Hasan, Assistant Professor of Safety Management
Attendance at the 2024 ASEE Annual Conference

Dr. Susan Henney, Professor of Psychology
Online Learning Consortium Innovative 2024

Dr. Leena Kumar, Professor of Political Science
Understanding the Role of Women in the Panchayat Raj System
in the Villages of India

Dr. Hanjin Mao, Assistant Professor of Political Science
& Nonprofit Management
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
Summer Program in Quantitative Methods

Dr. Rob Austin McKee, Associate Professor of Management
CoachRICE: A Leadership Coaching Program

Dr. Meghan Minard, Senior Lecturer of Biology
Gaining Skills and Resources for Biology Teaching

Dr. Kattia Palacio-Lopez, Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences
Funding request for scientific conferences to improve and acquire new
pedagogy strategies for Plant Biology Classes

Dr. Ohaness Paskelian, Professor of Finance
Proposal to participate at the Quinnipiac University' Global Asset
Management Education (G.A.M.E.) XIII Forum

Dr. Natacha Poggio, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design
Communicating the Ocean Decade

Dr. Rupak Rauniar, Professor of Supply Chain Management
Training in Power BI for data visualization and dashboards (for current
or future undergraduate/ MBA courses in Supply Chain and/or
Business Analytics)

Dr. Reynaldo Romero, Associate Professor of Spanish
Interpreting Studies: Professional Practice Certificate at Western
Oregon University

Dr. Claude Rubinson, Associate Professor of Sociology
Participation at the 3rd Annual QCA Conference of the Americas
(AQCA2024)

Dr. Katrina Rufino, Associate Professor of Psychology
Travel to the Annual Meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society

Dr. Sanghamitra Saha, Senior Lecturer of Biology
43rd Annual Conference on the First Year Experience

Dr. Shahnaz Savani, Assistant Professor of Social Work
The Joint Conference on Social Work, Education and Social
Development, Panama 2024

Dr. Katherine Shoemaker, Assistant Professor of Statistics
Develop and Strengthen Data Analysis and Statistical Consulting Skills
in Emergent Areas via Dyadic Data Analysis Training

Dr. Dana Smith, Associate Professor of Social Work
The Joint Conference of Social Work, Education and Social
Development (an international meeting)

Dr. Jacob Theruvathu, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
The 76th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Forensic
Sciences, February 19-24, 2024, Denver, Colorado

Dr. Tammis Thomas, Professor of English
UHD's Redesign of the First-Year Seminar: Next Steps toward Improvement

Dr. Michael Tobin, Associate Professor of Biology
Texas Academy of Science & Ecological Society of America Annual Meetings

Dr. Rahul Verma, Professor of Finance
Machine Learning in Business – MIT Management Executive Education
Online Course

Dr. Orlando Williams, Professor of Music
Texas Music Educators Association

Dr. Shengli Yuan, Professor of Computer Science
Teaching/Research expertise enhancement via participation of the 2024
IEEE Conference on Games

ORGANIZED RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AWARDS

Dr. Sarah Albrecht, Assistant Professor of Education
Pedagogical Translation for the Language Classroom: Literacy-Based
Strategies for Emergent Bilingual, Bilingual, and World Language
Learners

Dr. Stephanie Babb, Professor of Psychology
Nontraditional Students' Sense of Belonging

Dr. Qing (Ray) Cao, Professor of Management
Characterizing legacy phosphorus dynamics in soils with excessive
nutrient build-up via incubation experiments

Dr. Yajaira Ceciliano-Navarro, Assistant Professor of Sociology
The Gendered Effects of Family Deportation or Incarceration on College
Student

Dr. Kit Cho, Associate Professor of Psychology
Student and Instructor Perceptions of Open Educational Resources:
A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Dr. Sucheta Choudhuri, Associate Professor of English
Other Worlds, Other(ed) Spaces: Domestic Structures and Queer
Heterotopias in Kaushik Ganguly's Nagarkirtan

Dr. Kellen Gandy, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences
Cardiopulmonary Function, Neurocognitive Performance, and
Neuroimaging in Long-Term Survivors of Childhood Cancer

Dr. Krista Gehring, Professor of Criminal Justice
Criminological Understandings of Horror Films: Reel Fear

Dr. Susan Henney, Professor of Psychology
Mind-Body Wellness: A Science-Based Approach

Dr. Chuck Jackson, Professor of English
Jessie Maple's Early Films: Moody Close-Ups on Harlem, 1975-1981

Dr. Peter Li, Associate Professor of Political Science
Soft Power in International Relations: The Case of China's Panda Diplomacy

Dr. Ethan Marshall, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Understanding the Causes and Negative Consequences of Sexual
Victimization Among College Women

Dr. Rolando Pelaez, Professor of Finance
Forecasting Peaks and Recessions in the U.S. Business Cycle

Dr. Rupak Rauniar, Professor of Supply Chain Management
Adoption of Metaverse Technologies in Organization

Dr. Katrina Rufino, Associate Professor of Psychology
Nightmare Frequency in Psychiatric Inpatients

Dr. Rachna Sadana, Professor of Biology
Investigating Cytotoxic Compounds for Their Potential to Inhibit
Metastasis and Angiogenesis

Dr. Courtney Standlee, Assistant Professor of Biology
Unknown Factor Impacting Insect Life Cycle

Dr. Jorge Tito-Izquierdo, Associate Professor of Structural Analysis & Design
Anchor Pullout and Concrete Strength Tests

Dr. Raul Verma, Professor of Finance
Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on the Dynamic Relationship
between Energy Sentiments and Oil and Gas Sector and Ripple Effects
on the Economy

Dr. Joseph Westfall, Professor of Philosophy
The Musical Kierkegaard

Dr. Ling Xu, Associate Professor of Computer Science
Mobile App Development for Artwork Communication in Houston

RECOGNITION OF FACULTY YEARS OF SERVICE

20 YEARS

Dr. Jon Aoki

Associate Professor, Department of Natural Sciences

Dr. Youn-Sha Chan

Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Gene Preuss

Associate Professor, Department of History, Humanities and Languages

Dr. Edwin Tecarro

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Rahul Verma

Professor, Department of Finance and Information Systems

Dr. Shengli Yuan

Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

25 YEARS

Dr. Weining Feng

Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

Dr. Nancy Lopez

Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Humanities and Languages

Dr. Plamen Simeonov

Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon

Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Vasilis Zafiris

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

30 YEARS

Professor Bonnie Blumberg

Lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Catherine Howard

Senior Lecturer, Department of English & Interim Director, University Honors Program

35 YEARS

Dr. Susan Baker

Professor, Department of Arts and Communication

40 YEARS

Dr. Samuel Penkar

Professor, Department of Finance and Management Information Systems

Professor Sangeeta Gad

Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Darshan Wadhwa

Professor, Department of Accounting and International Business



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