

CANR

faculty & staff awards

May 2, 2024



College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



CANR

faculty & staff awards



College of Agriculture
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2024 CANR Teaching Awards

Camden Endowed Teaching Award

Karen Waite, Ph.D.

Excellence in Teaching – Established Teacher Award

Tyler Becker, Ph.D.

Excellence in Teaching – New Teacher Award

Michele Nikolai

Graduate Student Teaching Award

Tanya Iretskaia

MSU Extension Excellence in Teaching Award

Carol Publitz

Laurie Rivetto



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2024

CANR Camden Endowed Teaching Award

Karen Waite, Ph.D.

The Howard and Lili Camden Endowed Teacher/Scholar Award recognizes individuals with five or more years of teaching service in CANR who have developed innovative teaching methods, mentored in- and out- of the classroom and demonstrated instructional excellence, scholarly achievement and professional linkages.

Karen Waite, Ph.D., the director of undergraduate education in the Department of Animal Science and an equine educator for the Institute of Agricultural Technology, has been with CANR for over 24 years. Waite's instructional career has intentionally focused on developing common-sense, hands-on problem-solving skills. Her instructional efforts are often inspired by practical experiences related to horse ownership and equine extension. Outside of the classroom, Waite provides student mentorship in a variety of additional capacities. She has served as coach for the MSU Horse Judging Team and faculty advisor to the MSU Equestrian Team and Horseman's Association. Waite has served on four graduate student committees, acting as chair for two, while supporting countless other graduate students in developing impactful research projects.



2024

CANR Excellence in Teaching – Established Teacher Award

Tyler Becker, Ph.D.



The CANR Excellence in Teaching – Established Teacher Award recognizes individuals with five or more years of teaching experience who have demonstrated a commitment to quality scholarship of teaching, as evidenced by their contributions to teaching, learning and demonstrated success in these areas.

Tyler Becker, Ph.D., CSCS, is an assistant professor in the Department of Human Nutrition and a nutrition specialist for MSU Extension's Health and Nutrition Institute. Becker serves as the Nutritional Sciences Experiential Learning Coordinator and has developed five undergraduate courses, including the Nutritional Sciences Experiential Learning program. He leads or co-teaches a variety of courses and facilitates numerous projects with particular emphasis on curriculum development and evaluation. Becker additionally serves as the chair of the undergraduate Nutritional Sciences Curriculum Committee. Becker's teaching philosophy revolves around fostering student knowledge and skill retention in every aspect of his courses, which he works towards in a mindful and articulate course development process. Becker regularly connects course subjects to the professional world, facilitating intrinsic motivation and furthering student engagement. He takes pride in knowing that not only are his students applying what they learn but are also developing key skills for future professional success.

2024

CANR Excellence in Teaching – New Teacher Award

Michele Nikolai

The CANR Excellence in Teaching – New Teacher Award recognizes individuals with less than five years of teaching experience who have demonstrated a commitment to quality scholarship of teaching and learning with demonstrated success in these areas.

A proud Spartan alum, Michele Nikolai joined the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition in 2020, following an accomplished career in healthcare and management. A registered dietitian nutritionist, Nikolai is experienced in clinical nutrition management, dietetics and nutrition informatics. She actively utilizes such expertise while instructing courses focused on medical nutrition therapy and business of nutrition services. Nikolai has notably focused efforts on increasing student engagement and interprofessional opportunities through multi-modal instruction and an inclusive learning environment. She aims to integrate a balance between individual experimentation and collaborative group work, with additional emphasis on incorporating real life experiences to reinforce course concepts. Her development and restructuring of courses to increase use of simulation technologies has been especially helpful in better preparing students for real-life work environments.



2024

CANR Graduate Student Teaching Award

Tanya Iretskaia



The CANR Graduate Student Teaching Award recognizes graduate students for their exceptional teaching skills, implementation of innovative techniques and their contributions to undergraduate programs and impact on students' careers and colleagues' teaching/advising practices.

Tatiana “Tanya” Iretskaia is a doctoral candidate in the Sustainable Tourism and Protected Areas Management program. Iretskaia came to MSU with 15 years of experience in field biology and cross-cultural communication and facilitation. Her research interests include nature-based tourism, with particular emphasis on wildlife-focused travel through the scope of telecoupling. With a true passion for instruction, Iretskaia enjoys actively inspiring students in her courses. She works to provide an environment that is welcoming and supportive of all students by continually promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in her classrooms. Iretskaia additionally acknowledges that teaching practices are shaped by each generation of students and are actively being altered by advances in technology or changing context. She strives to continually improve and adapt her instructional methods to best support student success.

2024
MSU Extension Excellence in Teaching

Carol Bublitz



The MSU Extension Excellence in Teaching Awards recognize MSU Extension educators who have demonstrated exceptional teaching skills, implemented innovative techniques and contributed to the success and impact of MSU Extension programs on society.

Carol Bublitz is a MSU Extension community nutrition instructor based in St. Clair County, Michigan. Bublitz joined Extension in 1995, working with the breastfeeding initiative and family nutrition program. She now works within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Education), providing health and nutrition education programming throughout St. Clair County and beyond. Bublitz particularly enjoys studying the unique ways people learn, in turn providing information and materials best suited to them. Bublitz is always stepping out of the box and developing new ways to teach curriculum and engage with her audience, further broadening her reach and strengthening her impact.

2024
MSU Extension Excellence in Teaching
Laurie Rivetto

The MSU Extension Excellence in Teaching Awards recognize MSU Extension educators who have demonstrated exceptional teaching skills, implemented innovative techniques and contributed to the success and impact of MSU Extension programs on society.

Laurie Rivetto is a MSU Extension educator based in Wayne County, Michigan. Having worked with Extension since 2006, Rivetto has had the opportunity to positively impact more than 12,000 youth throughout her career. Rivetto specializes in 4-H youth development in the areas of youth money management, career exploration and workforce readiness skill development. Her work focuses on volunteer and curriculum development and direct programming with youth in a creative, engaging manner. Rivetto enjoys utilizing unique approaches to youth programming and believes education requires commitment to the moment and learner. She values creating a safe place in her teaching environment and hopes youth, especially those who may be unsuccessful in traditional learning settings, see learning and education can have a place in their lives.



2023 CANR Excellence in Research Awards

Early Career Researcher Award

Eric Patterson, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Perry, Ph.D.

Established Mid-Career Researcher Award

Pouyan Nejadhashemi, Ph.D.

Research Fellow Career Award

Hui Li, Ph.D.

Impact Award

**SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology-Wastewater Evaluation
and Reporting (SEWERS) Network**

2023

CANR Early Career Researcher Award

Eric Patterson, Ph.D.

The CANR Excellence in Research Early Career Researcher Award recognizes individuals with less than 5 years of service and research experience at MSU/CANR.

Eric Patterson, Ph.D., has been an assistant professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences since 2019. Patterson leads a team of researchers and graduate students in the Patterson Lab, whose primary mission is to explore and understand molecular and genetic traits of plant species in the attempt to better define what makes a weed, a weed. Patterson is additionally interested in how herbicides affect weed adaptation to stressors. Outside of the lab, Patterson provides technical support to the International Weed Genomes Consortium (IWGC). Prior to his time at MSU, Patterson was a postdoctoral researcher and Clemson Fellow at Clemson University.



2023

CANR Early Career Researcher Award

Elizabeth Perry, Ph.D.

The CANR Excellence in Research Early Career Researcher Award recognizes individuals with less than 5 years of service and research experience at MSU/CANR.

Elizabeth ‘Bess’ Perry, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of Protected Areas and Natural Resources Recreation Management in the Department of Community Sustainability and director of the Park Connections Lab. Perry collaborates with a variety of parks to address unique managerial concerns and highlight their contributions to sustainability. Her research also studies how parks and recreation can sustain connections with a variety of audiences. In 2022, Perry was awarded a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to study non-traditional uses of state game lands, working to better understand how visitors are using these spaces and in turn develop procedures to become more inclusive of these happenings. Perry holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont. Prior to MSU, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Clemson University.



2023

CANR Established Mid-Career Researcher Award

Pouyan Nejadhashemi, Ph.D.

The CANR Excellence in Research Established (Mid-Career) Researcher Award recognizes individuals with 5 to 15 years of service and research experience at MSU/CANR.

Pouyan Nejadhashemi, Ph.D., is a Michigan State University Foundation Professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering and Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences. Additionally, he serves as director of the Center for Intelligent Water Resources Engineering and is the lead faculty member for the Decision Support and Informatics Unit. An established expert in water resource modeling, Nejadhashemi studies water distribution, movement and quality across various environments, with a goal of evaluating different water quality mitigation strategies to reduce water contamination. Nejadhashemi's research team has been key to various national and international government agencies, helping foster informed decisions in areas of water resource management and climate change mitigation strategies.



2023

CANR Research Fellow Career Award

Hui Li, Ph.D.

The CANR Excellence in Research Fellow (Career) Award recognizes individuals with 15 or more years of research experience.

Hui Li, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, as well as a member of the Center for PFAS Research. An expert in the areas of environmental soil chemistry and contaminants in plant-soil-water systems, Li's research focuses on fate, transformation, bioavailability and impacts of pharmaceuticals, personal care products and pesticides in the environment. His work furthers the understanding of fundamental environmental processes in water and soil at molecular scales and the development of innovative environmental remediation technology. Li's research program has been funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation and National Institute of Health.





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Members include:

2023
CANR Impact Award
**SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology-Wastewater
Evaluation and Reporting (SEWERS) Network**

The CANR Excellence in Research Impact Award, co-sponsored by ABR and MSUE, recognizes research projects that have made an outstanding impact in the external stakeholder community.

The MSU SEWER team is being recognized for their impactful work related to SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance. In collaboration with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the MSU SEWERS team has worked to harness and expand monitoring capabilities in Michigan to track the SARS-CoV-2 virus in wastewater. The team has served as an essential hub in a statewide network of laboratories conducting advanced testing of recreational waters and microbial source tracking.

- **Joan Rose**, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
- **Erin Dreelin**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Nishita D'Souza**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Rebecca Ives**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Jade Mitchell**, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
- **Ryan Julien**, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
- **Mackenzie DeRaad**, Lyman Briggs College, Zoology
- **Lydia Arbaugh**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Xijiao Wang**, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
- **Spencer Kuehn**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Simran Singh**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
- **Alex Tran**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Corrine Caponigro**, Biomedical Laboratory Science, College of Natural Science
- **Emily Zak**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, College of Natural Science
- **Melissa Downs**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- **Sarah Holmes**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

2024 CANR Excellence in Research Awards

Early Career Researcher Award

Abigail Bennett, Ph.D.

Established Mid-Career Researcher Award

Adam Lock, Ph.D.

Impact Award

**Metrics, Management, and Monitoring: An Investigation of
Pasture and Rangeland Soil Health and its Drivers (3M) Team**

2024

CANR Early Career Researcher Award

Abigail Bennett, Ph.D.



The CANR Excellence in Research Early Career Researcher Award recognizes individuals with less than 5 years of service and research experience at MSU/CANR.

Abigail Bennett, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of global inland fisheries ecology and governance in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Additionally, she is a member of the Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability. Bennett's research studies the role of fisheries in livelihoods and food security, with particular emphasis on how governance and trade shape connections between fisheries and human well-being. Working closely with entities such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Bennett hopes to emphasize how geographic understanding of fisheries and aquaculture can inform policies to aid individuals who depend on aquatic resources. In 2023, Bennett received the John K. Hudzik Emerging Leader in Advancing International Studies and Programs for recognition of her impactful work.

2024

CANR Established Mid-Career Researcher Award

Adam Lock, Ph.D.

The CANR Excellence in Research Established (Mid-Career) Researcher Award recognizes individuals with 5 to 15 years of service and research experience at MSU/CANR.

Dr. Lock is a professor in the Department of Animal Science. Originally from a dairy farm in the southwest of the United Kingdom, Adam moved to his current research and extension appointment at Michigan State University in 2009. His recent work has focused on fatty acid absorption, fat supplementation strategies, milk fat depression, and the regulation of milk fat synthesis. His interests and expertise cross several areas, allowing for an integration of disciplines that facilitate the advancement of knowledge in these areas of science. His objectives are to lead a respected research and outreach program, help shape a successful future for the Michigan dairy industry and make significant contributions to animal agriculture and the dairy industry. He is recognized for his ability to communicate to many sectors, from dairy farmers to dietitians and was recently awarded the 2019 American Feed Industry Association Award for his contributions to research of dairy cattle nutrition by the American Dairy Science Association.



2024
CANR Impact Award

**Metrics, Management, and Monitoring: An Investigation of
Pasture and Rangeland Soil Health and its Drivers (3M) Team**

The CANR Excellence in Research Impact Award, co-sponsored by ABR and MSUE, recognizes research projects that have made an outstanding impact in the external stakeholder community.

The 3M Team's project works to provide tools to accurately measure outcomes of soil health in grazing land environments to farmers and ranchers, in turn guiding management decisions and quantifying the impact of intentional management. The project also examines social and economic sustainability, otherwise known as producer well-being, items rarely studied in livestock agriculture. In collaboration with 60 farms, the team collects intensive data from sites in Michigan, Oklahoma and Wyoming. The project uniquely combines technology, ecology, social and economic sciences in a wholistic approach to allow producers to make informed decisions that benefit their operations.

Members of the 3M Team include:

- **Jason Rowntree**, Department of Animal Science
- **Matt Raven**, Department of Community Sustainability
- **Melissa McKendree**, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
- **Frank Lupi**, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
- **Jeremiah Asher**, Institute of Water Research



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2024
CANR Outstanding
Academic Advisor Award
Erin Bosch-Hannah



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2024

CANR Outstanding Academic Advisor Award

Erin Bosch-Hannah



The CANR Outstanding Academic Advisor Award honors academic advisors for their commitment and excellence in supporting students to set and reach their academic and professional goals.

Erin Bosch-Hannah, a senior academic specialist in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, has been an influential member of the CANR community for 12 years. In her role, Bosch-Hannah provides educational and career advising to agricultural industry students, connecting them with professional internships and valuable networking opportunities. She assists in teaching various courses, including introduction to crop science, issues in international agriculture and career leadership in agriculture. In her additional role as faculty advisor to the MSU Agronomy Club, Bosch-Hannah assists members as they compete in collegiate crops judging contests and attend conferences. Her ongoing commitment to student development has had a positive impact on the academic experience of many.



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2024

**H. Paul Roberts Awards for Distinguished
Service in Education Abroad**

**Southern African Wildlife
College**



CANR

faculty & staff awards

2024

H. Paul Roberts Award for Distinguished Service in Education Abroad

Southern African Wildlife College

The H. Paul Roberts Award for Distinguished Service in Education Abroad recognizes faculty and staff who give their time and creativity to the development and implementation of education abroad programs, as well as those who work behind the scenes to support the students who participate in education abroad.

The Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) is an accredited higher education and learning institution in Hoedspruit, South Africa. SAWC has been in active collaboration with MSU and CANR since 2003, enabling numerous students, faculty and staff to participate in conservation research and training initiatives in Africa. SAWC promotes hands-on training with the goal of conserving Africa's wildlife and ecosystems. The SAWC hosts numerous study abroad programs for MSU students. These programs tackle ongoing conservation, ecological and economic issues while connecting participants with local experts actively engaged in fostering positive change. This structure allows students a unique, hands-on experience to collaborate on topics of critical importance.



2024 CANR Staff Awards

Staff Dean's Award of Distinction

Paul Bloese

Excellence in Research Performance and Support Award

Lynn Worden

Early Achievement Award

Kevin Cox

Spirit of CANR

Ashley Lathrop



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2024

CANR Staff Dean's Award of Distinction

Paul Bloese

The CANR Staff Dean's Award of Distinction recognizes a support staff member for their outstanding long-term service to CANR and their exemplary performance during their employment.

Paul Bloese currently serves as Research Manager at the Tree Research Center on the South Campus Farms and has managed the MSU Forestry's Tree Improvement Program for nearly 40 years. In his role, Paul is responsible for growing seeds, establishing them in replicated field trials and analyzing their performance to generate genetically improved planting stock for Michigan forests. Paul has spent his career working with other dedicated foresters at MSU's Tree Research Center, Kellogg Forest, the Upper Peninsula Forest Innovation Center and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Paul is known for his passion and rigor, always seeming to have logical answers for even the toughest questions and taking pride in carrying MSU's legacy of tree improvement forward. His commitment to promoting and meeting CANR's mission, goals and objectives is evident throughout his work and mindset.



2024 Excellence in Research Performance and Support Award

Lynn Worden



The CANR Excellence in Research Performance and Support Award recognizes a support staff member for their outstanding performance at a teaching and research center, in a laboratory, field-based research or a research administrative support role.

Lynn Worden has served as a research assistant in the Department of Animal Science since 2016. In her role, Lynn runs a laboratory in Anthony Hall, helping coordinate research studies at the MSU dairy farm and mentoring both graduate and undergraduate students. Known for being instrumental in the promotion of diversity and inclusion, Lynn promotes mutual respect of culture, religion and lifestyle throughout the lab, working to provide an environment that is enjoyable and supportive of all team members. She additionally recognizes that student needs and learning styles may vary and has taken a key role in helping adapt the teaching of research skills to better the student experience.

2024
Early Achievement Award
Kevin Cox

The Early Achievement Award recognizes a support staff member who is a dedicated team player and has made outstanding contributions in their role and has recently joined CANR.

Kevin Cox is a research administrator formerly with the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics and the Food Security Group. Kevin has moved to a similar role in the AgBioResearch Director's Office. Since joining MSU in 2019, Kevin has been instrumental in improving administrative processes and engaging key stakeholders. In the unpredictable world of international development, Kevin has played a pivotal role in assisting and training overseas partners in contract management. His work has helped grow the Food Security Group's portfolio to include more diverse grants and contracts.

Known for being particularly perceptive of faculty and departmental needs, Kevin often steps up to help even when not directly prompted. He has repeatedly demonstrated a true ability to collaborate effectively with diverse audiences, always employing the same respectful consideration in each partnership or initiative.



2024
Spirit of CANR
Ashley Lathrop



The Spirit of CANR Award recognizes a support staff member who is committed to representing CANR and MSU by embodying the CANR mission through one or more of its values.

Ashley Lathrop is a senior administrative business professional in the Department of Community Sustainability and a proud MSU alum. In her role, Ashley works to improve processes and culture within the department, hoping to encourage a more cohesive and enjoyable work environment for all. She is known for her positive energy, and consistently shows genuine excitement about the teaching, research and outreach being done in CSUS. Regarded as a well-seasoned problem solver, Ashley has played a pivotal role in fostering positive change in her department, including creating video tutorials addressing common issues and forming social-justice partnerships to strengthen the community atmosphere of CSUS.

2024

CANR Global Scholars

**Global Scholars encompass three core missions of the CANR
Research, Education and Extension**

Daniel Uyeh, Ph.D.

Parker Jones

Janis Brinn

Ghaida Havern

2024

Global Scholar representing Research

Daniel Uyeh, Ph.D.



The Global Scholars Program supports established and early-mid career faculty members with seed funding and travel support for two years. Selected annually by the CANR International Programs Office, three or more global scholars work to strengthen and expand their global linkages, networks and collaborative programs across three core missions of the college in diverse areas of research, education and outreach.

Daniel Uyeh, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. Uyeh conducts multidisciplinary research in climate-smart decision support systems, with research focuses across climate-smart agriculture, sensing systems, system modeling and AI in agriculture. Uyeh's work related to the development of such systems aims to enhance agricultural decision making, leading to better adaptation and resilience to forthcoming climate change. Prior to joining BAE, Uyeh was a research professor at the Upland Field Machinery Research Center, and researcher at the Smart Agriculture Innovation Center at Kyungwook National University.



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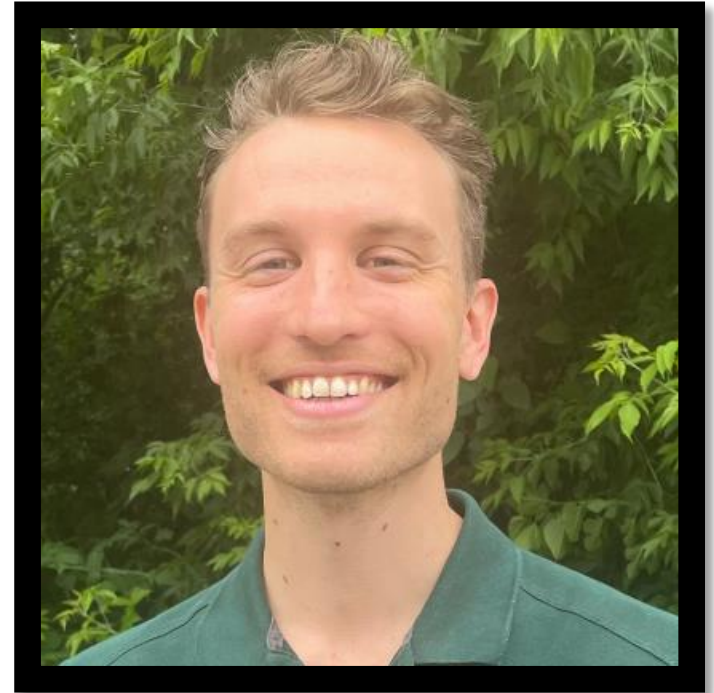
2024

Global Scholar representing Extension

Parker Jones

The Global Scholars Program supports established and early-mid career faculty members with seed funding and travel support for two years. Selected annually by the CANR International Programs Office, three or more global scholars work to strengthen and expand their global linkages, networks and collaborative programs across three core missions of the college in diverse areas of research, education and outreach.

Parker Jones is an educator and innovation counselor with the MSUE Grand Traverse County Extension Office and MSU Product Center. In his role, Jones helps food, agriculture and natural resource entrepreneurs meet their business goals while also connecting them with large market outlets in Michigan and beyond. Jones is lead of the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities team with MSU Extension and co-manages an inaugural USDA Regional Food Systems Partnership Grant, working to connect a more equitable and resilient food system in the Upper Peninsula and Southwest Michigan. Jones is collaborating with the Grigol Robakidze University, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.



2024

Global Scholar representing Extension

Janis Brinn



The Global Scholars Program supports established and early-mid career faculty members with seed funding and travel support for two years. Selected annually by the CANR International Programs Office, three or more global scholars work to strengthen and expand their global linkages, networks and collaborative programs across three core missions of the college in diverse areas of research, education and outreach.

Janis Brinn is a MSU Extension educator with the Leadership, Civic and Cultural Engagement Work Team. Brinn, who has worked in 4-H Youth Development education for 26 years, focuses on global and culture programming, which includes projects in global and cultural competencies, communication and expressive arts. Brinn coordinates the Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs, Michigan 4-H Visual Letters Art Exchange and Children's Art Exchange with China. She recently traveled to India in a joint program with the National Agricultural Extension Management Institute (MANAGE).

2024

Global Scholar representing Extension

Ghaida Havern

The Global Scholars Program supports established and early-mid career faculty members with seed funding and travel support for two years. Selected annually by the CANR International Programs Office, three or more global scholars work to strengthen and expand their global linkages, networks and collaborative programs across three core missions of the college in diverse areas of research, education and outreach.

Ghaida Havern is a maternal, infant and early childhood health educator with Michigan State University Extension's Health and Nutrition Institute. In this role, Havern provides nutrition and physical activity programming for the population within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education program (SNAP-Ed). She also supports policy, system and environmental change efforts that benefit the maternal, infant and early childhood population in Michigan. Ghaida is formulating a collaborative project focusing on nutrition and safe food for healthy babies among Middle Eastern refugee parents in Egypt and Jordan.



2024
CANR You Belong Here Champion Awards

CANR You Belong Here Champion Award: Faculty
Callista Rakhmatov, Ph.D.

CANR You Belong Here Champion Award: Staff
Stephanie Chau

CANR You Belong Here Award: Undergraduate Student
Lex Stuart

CANR You Belong Here Champion Award: Graduate student
Sharron (Ronnie) Miller

**2024 CANR You Belong Here
Champion Award: Faculty**

Callista Rakhmatov, Ph.D.

This award honors those who live the CANR Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement in and through their work and space.

Callista B. Rakhmatov, Ph.D., is an academic specialist in the Department of Entomology and a global network specialist with CANR International Programs. Rakhmatov began her time at MSU in 2008 in the Institute of International Agriculture where she served as an assistant professor and program coordinator. In this role, she designed and implemented capacity-building programs for international professionals in the U.S. and abroad. In her current role, Rakhmatov supports global engagement of faculty and students in the areas of agriculture and natural resources and organizes networking and professional development activities for CANR Global Scholars and Fellows.



**2024 CANR You Belong Here
Champion Award: Staff**

Stephanie Chau

This award honors those who live the CANR Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement in and through their work and space.

Stephanie Chau is an assistant director of undergraduate diversity for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In her role, Chau coordinates pre-college programs including the ANR Institute for Multicultural Students (AIMS), ANR Institute for Multicultural Students Bilingual (AIMS-B) and Michigan Indian Leadership Program. In her additional role as co-advisor for the MSU chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), Chau advises and supports undergraduate students of diverse backgrounds. Prior to her role in CANR, Chau was a member of the MSU Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) staff, a program aimed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.



**2024 CANR You Belong Here
Champion Award: Undergraduate Student**

Lex Stuart

This award honors those who live the CANR Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement in and through their work and space.

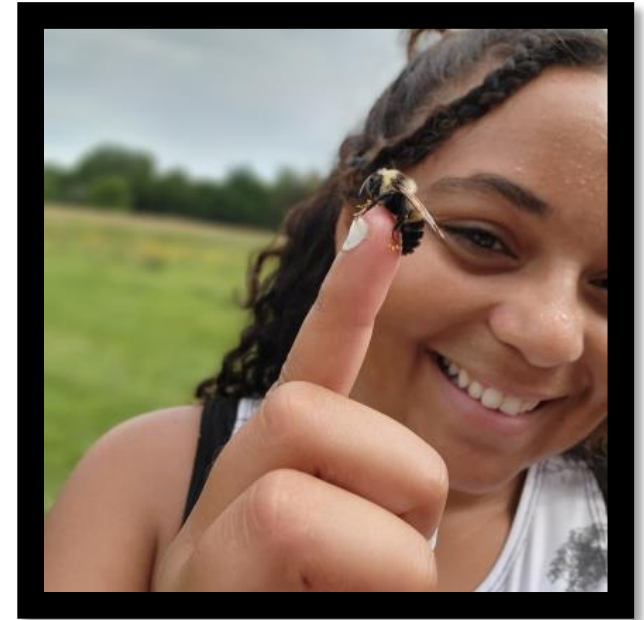
Lex Stuart is an undergraduate student in the Department of Animal Science, with a pre-veterinary concentration. Serving as president of the newly formed Spartan Service Dogs Student Organization, Stuart has been instrumental in building community amongst members. Stuart organizes key events and meetings, further supporting the club's mission to foster a supportive and inclusive community for individuals with disabilities. The organization is also a welcome space for those interested in learning about service and emotional support animals. Stuart's commitment to the organization's values showcases her aptitude for fostering inclusivity and connection amongst diverse audiences.

**2024 CANR You Belong Here
Champion Award: Graduate Student**

Sharron (Ronnie) Miller

This award honors those who live the CANR Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement in and through their work and space.

Sharron (Ronnie) Miller is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Entomology. Working in Dr. Rufus Isaacs' Lab, Miller's research focuses on bee ecology and conservation, with particular emphasis on native bee communities in natural, urban and agricultural landscapes throughout Michigan. The overarching goal of her graduate research is to better understand how humans affect bees in different environments and use that knowledge to help better coexist with them. Miller is also actively involved in outreach and extension initiatives promoting bee education.



2024

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Digital Badge Awards



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION
PLATINUM AWARD 2023-24



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION
GOLD AWARD 2023-24



**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION
PLATINUM AWARD 2023-24**

- **Department of Animal Science**
- **Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering**
- **Department of Community Sustainability**
- **Department of Entomology**
- **Department of Fisheries and Wildlife**
- **Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition**
- **Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences**
- **MSU Extension Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute**
- **School of Packaging**
- **School of Planning, Design and Construction**



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION
GOLD AWARD 2023-24

Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics

Department of Forestry

Kellogg Biological Station

MSU Extension Community, Food and Environment Institute

MSU Extension Health and Nutrition Institute



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Honoring MSU Years of Service

**Each category includes the following date range:
3/1/2023 – 2/29/2024**



CANR

faculty & staff awards

10 Years of Service

- Nicholas Adkins, CY
 - Judith Barry, CSUS
 - Mark Benbow, ENT
 - Chen Chen, ANS
 - Julie Crick, CFE
 - Aprile Davis, CY
 - Sandra Dunnebacke, FOR
 - Melissa Elischer, ANS
 - Bonnie Hardies, CY
 - Regina Henry, MSUE
 - Dolores Howe, CY
 - Rebecca Hulbert, MSUE
- Janelle Kantola, HLTH/NUT
 - Aaron Kortenhoven, CFE
 - Justin Kunkle, FOR
 - Keith Latham, ANS
 - Heidi Lindberg, AGRBUS
 - Maria Lopez Perez, CSUS
 - Holly Madill, SPDC
 - Daedre McGrath, HORT
 - John Medendorp, MABR
 - Daniel Morris, BAE
 - Milu Muyanga, AFRE
 - David Nyange, AFRE
- Eric Olson, PSM
 - Cory Outwater, PSM
 - Dustin Petty, BAILEY
 - Benjamin Phillips, AGRBUS
 - Laura Potter-Niesen, CY
 - Jesse Sholl, ANR RES
 - Nicole Walker, MSUE
 - Andrew Widner, KBS
 - Brook Wilke, KBS
 - Jamie Wilson, CY
 - Felicia Wu, FSHN

15 Years of Service

- Vicki Ballas, HLTH/NUT
 - Stephanie Chau, OASA
 - Martin Chilvers, PSM
 - Leah Christie, MSUE
 - Arthur Cooper, FWL
 - Julie Cotton, PSM
 - Dawn Earnesty, HLTH/NUT
 - Richard Ehrhardt, ANS
 - Cheryl Eschbach, HLTH/NUT
 - Michael Everett, CSUS
 - Michael James, BAE
- Maxine Kaiser, HLTH/NUT
 - Jennifer Labun, MSUE
 - Jo Latimore, FWL
 - Stratton Lee III, OASA
 - Eunsil Lee, SPDC
 - Jamie Marks, BAE
 - David Mather, AFRE
 - Sheryl Michilli, MSUE
 - Amirpouyan Nejadhashemi, BAE
 - Linsey Newton, PSM
 - Yoshiko Nomura, ENT
- Jennifer Owen, FWL
 - Emily Proctor, CFE
 - Robert Ross, AFRE
 - Brian Roth, FWL
 - Laura Schmitt Olabisi, CSUS
 - Joanne Silvia, MSUE
 - Jacob Stieg, CY
 - Brian Wibby, CY
 - Evian Wright, PSM

20 Years of Service

- Adesoji Adelaja, AFRE
- Frances Adelaja, MSUE
- Katherine Alaimo, FSHN
- Jordan Burroughs, CFE
- Sarah Jo-Czinder Carroll, KBS
- Annette Crum, KBS
- Deanna East, MSUE
- Jennifer Ekstrom, FSHN
- Mary Graebert, SPDC
- Thomas Guthrie, AGRIBUS
- Juan Huang, ENT
- Wayne Jiang, ENT
- John Jones, AFRE
- William Knudson, AFRE
- Kelli Kolasa, MSUE
- Kendra Moyses, MSUE
- Sherye Robitaille, ANS
- Brandon Schroeder, CFE
- Janice Siegford, ANS
- Christy Sprague, PSM
- Lisa Tams, HLTH/NUT
- Phillip Tocco, AGRIBUS
- Jean Tsao, FWL
- Steven Van Timmeren, ENT
- Frank Wardynski, AGRIBUS
- Lori Williams, PSM

25 Years of Service

- Darren Bagley, CY
- Daniel Bulkowski, HORT
- Joseph Coombs, PSM
- Christina Curell, AGRIBUS
- Jennifer Dominguez, ANS
- Mary Dunckel, AGRIBUS
- Karen Fifield, HLTH/NUT
- Renee Gagnier, CANR ADMIN
- Sarah Holmes, FWL
- Zachary Huang, ENT
- Satish Joshi, AFRE
- Connie Lange, CY
- Curtina Mysliwicz, HLTH/NUT
- David Radloff, CY
- Jay Samek, FOR
- Jeane Stebleton, CSUS
- Mark Stephens, FWL
- Janelle Stewart, CY
- Brian Teppen, PSM
- Kable Thurlow, AGRIBUS
- Steven Vannocker, HORT
- Lorraine Weatherspoon, FSHN
- Miriam Weber Nielsen, ANS
- Jennifer Weichel, CY



30 Years of Service

- Audree Baxter, CANR ADMIN
 - Zelda Felix-Mottley, HLTH/NUT
 - David Gilstrap, PSM
 - Daniel Hayes, FWL
 - Ruth Kline-Robach, CSUS
-
- Gerrylynn McNeal, HLTH/NUT
 - Julie Moore, ANS
 - Diane Wilson, CFE
 - Gary Zehr, ANR RES

35 Years of Service

- Mary Brooks, HLTH/NUT
 - Deborah Clark, MSUE DIR
 - Nancy Dykema, PSM
 - Douglas Landis, ENT
 - Mary Pond, MSUE DIR
-
- John Rogers, PSM
 - Michael Staton, AGRIBUS
 - Gale Strasburg, FSHN
 - David Tschirley, AFRE
 - Michael Vandelaar, ANS



40 Years of Service

- Sandra Bailey, ANS
- Michelle Sidel, CSUS
- Joan Schneider, HORT
- Connie Demars, HLTH/NUT



Honoring New Hires

Welcome to CANR

**Please stand to help us recognize those who
are new to CANR!**

New Hires

- Samuel Bailey
- Christopher Bardenhagen
- Lindsay Brown
- Cheri Burk
- Madelyn Celovsky
- Christine Charles
- Erica Clites
- Teresa Crook
- Anna Ellis
- Antomia Farrell
- Barbara Gregerson
- Aditya Gupta
- Eliza Hensel
- Sierra Jezuit
- Kellie Kieren
- Michael Korpak
- Gary Libretti Jr.
- David Lindsay
- Sara Malone
- Saltanat Mambetova
- Aurora Monterrosa Castillo
- Misty Oebel
- Lucas Perry
- Nicolle Ritchie
- Angela Scapini
- Nicole Schultz
- Caitlin Splawski
- Shannon Stover
- Samantha Wolfe
- Laura Wood-Romito



Honoring Promotions in CANR

**Please stand to help us recognize those who
were promoted this year!**

Promotions

- Teresa Bergholz, FSHN
- Douglas Besette, CSUS
- Daniel Buskirk, ANS
- Martin Chilvers, PSM
- Henry Chung, ENT
- William Cronin, CFEI
- Ehsan Ghane, BAE
- Steven Gray, CSUS
- Erin K Hannah, PSM
- Erin C Hill, PSM
- Emily Holm, PSM
- Wen Huang, ANS
- Tasia Kendrick, ANS
- Jun Hyun Kim, SPDC
- Melissa McKendree, AFRE
- Linda Nubani, SPDC
- Sarah Prior, BAILEY
- Rita Strakovsky, FSHN
- Zsofia Szendrei, ENT
- Jean Tsao, FWL
- Robert VanBuren, HORT
- Yuan Wang, ANS
- Cimberly Weir, PKG
- Sarah Lebeis Werner, PSM



**Congratulations and
thank you for all you do!**

Please enjoy some refreshments.

CANR

faculty & staff awards

CONGRATULATIONS!

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/facultystaffawards>

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