2018 Wilson Awards Banquet

The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences’ annual celebration of accomplishments

The Nittany Lion Inn
Sunday, April 15, 2018

Reception:  5:00 p.m.
Dinner:   6:00 p.m.
Matthew J. Wilson, Jr. & Anne Coghlan Wilson

Through their bequests, Matthew and Anne Wilson are the major benefactors of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS). In the 1950s, Matthew Wilson inherited a stock portfolio that provided the basis for the funds he generously gave to the then-named School of Mineral Industries. His giving started in 1957 with a modest scholarship endowment and was later increased with additional gifts. Over the years the endowments blossomed into a substantial fund that today provides the college with support for its well-known student loan program and a number of faculty and student awards and scholarships. The fund also supports the annual Wilson Awards Banquet.

Matthew Wilson was born in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Penn State in 1918 with a bachelor’s degree in mining engineering. He attended the University of Colorado, where he received master’s degrees in geology and chemistry and met his wife, Anne, a biochemist. After graduating, he started working as a chemist for the Atlantic Refining Company in Philadelphia and later moved to Holland, Michigan, where he developed a career in sales starting first with the U.S. Industrial Company, then the Karr Spring Company, and later with the Spring Air Company. He served as the Washington representative for Spring Air’s industrial and military sales for many years; he also served on the company’s board of directors. In retirement, the Wilsons lived in Michigan but moved to Scottsdale, Arizona shortly before Matthew died in 1963.

Throughout the next twenty years Anne Wilson increased the family endowments and took an active interest in EMS students and faculty. When she died in 1983, it was said of her:

“Anne believed in giving. Her dream to become a doctor was never realized so she wanted the dreams of others to come true. She felt it was important that the University hold on to its best teachers. Awards were a wonderful way to do so.”
**Rewarding Student Achievement**

**College Awards**

**Jay M. and Katherine Definis Award for Outstanding Student Leadership**

Established in 2005, this award honors outstanding student leadership abilities within the student organizations of the college.

**Jennafer Hakun**, Energy Engineering

**Ellen Steidle Achievement Award**

Established in 1953 by Dean Edward Steidle to honor the memory of his wife, this award recognizes students who have been active in advancing the welfare and improvement of the college.

Senior: **Victoria Christensen**, Materials Science and Engineering
Junior: **Vivian Rennie**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

**Dean Edward Steidle Memorial Scholar Award**

Established in 1981 to honor Edward Steidle, dean of the college from 1929 to 1953, this award broadens the educational opportunities for EMS students.

**Madeline Nyblade**, Geosciences

The following awards and accomplishments will be acknowledged at the Spring 2018 Commencement Reception on Friday, May 4, 2018.

**GEMS Diamond Award**

Established in 2006, the GEMS Diamond Award grants a lifetime membership in the Penn State Alumni Association to a graduating student who is found to have the most well-rounded involvement and achievement in both the University and community environment during his/her student experience while in the college.

**Victoria Christensen**, Materials Science and Engineering

**Student Marshal and Valedictorian**

**Fatima Altarrah**, B.S. Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering, Minor in Energy Business and Finance

Fatimah achieved a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade-point average and will graduate Summa Cum Laude. She also is a recipient of the Evan Pugh Scholar Award

**Science Honor Marshal**

**Madeline Nyblade**, B.S. Geosciences

Maddie will graduate Summa Cum Laude and with honors as a Schreyer Scholar
Earth and Mineral Sciences Academy for Global Experience (EMSAGE)

The Earth and Mineral Sciences Academy for Global Experience (EMSAGE) was formed in 2009 as a vehicle to foster our students’ global competence and to promote a spirit of integrity, service, and leadership. Our 2018 Laureates are listed below.

Lara Aljuhani, Energy Business and Finance  
Priyanka Bose, Geosciences  
Audrey Bourne, Geosciences  
Nicholas Buczacki, Mining Engineering  
Paige Campbell, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Victoria Christensen, Materials Science and Engineering  
Alexandra Colaizzi, Energy Business and Finance  
Evan Galimberti, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering  
Jennafer Hakun, Energy Engineering  
Julia Higson, Geography  
Katie Hutton, Mining Engineering  
Shams Joon, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering  
Gregory Kojadinovich II, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering  
Nathan Lis, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Madison Littin, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Jasmine Lomax, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Matthew Ludwig, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Benjamin Miller, Energy Business and Finance  
Paul Mykolajtchuk, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Natasha Nagle, Geoosciences  
Madeline Nyblade, Geoosciences  
William Petley, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering  
Evan Plumridge, Environmental Systems Engineering  
Hannah Pohlmann, Materials Science and Engineering  
Gwenore Pokrifka, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Catherine Pomorski, Materials Science and Engineering  
Brandon Rothrock, Geography  
Gina Sarkawi, Geoosciences  
William Schramm, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering  
Vivek Shenoy, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Joseph Skevokis, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering  
Jacob Sorber, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Alexander Tomoff, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
Andrew Vislosky, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering  
Ian Wolfe, Geoosciences  
Zhiyu Zhao, Materials Science and Engineering
Promotion and Tenure

Angela Lueking, Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering
Jonathan Mathews, Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering
Alexander Klippel, Professor of Geography
Roman Engel-Herbert, Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

25-Year Service Awards

Susan Trolier-McKinstry, Steward S. Flaschen Professor of Materials Science
Jenni Evans, Professor of Meteorology and Director of the Institute for CyberSciences

Retirements

Michael Arthur, Professor Emeritus of Geosciences
Peter Bannon, Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Science
Terry Engelder, Professor Emeritus of Geosciences
Turgay Ertekin, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
Deryck Holdsworth, Professor Emeritus of Geography
Mku Thaddeus Ityokumbul, Associate Professor of Mineral Processing
Gareth Mitchell, Research Associate, EMS Energy Institute
Carlo Pantano, Professor Emeritus of Materials Science and Engineering
Donna Peuquet, Professor Emeritus of Geography
Timothy Robinson, Instructor, Undergraduate Education
Donald Voigt, Assistant Research Professor, Geosciences
Recognizing Commitment to Service

Wilson Award for Outstanding Service

Andrew Nyblade
Professor of Geosciences

Faculty Advising Award

Luis Ayala
William A. Fustos Family Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering and Associate Head for Graduate Education, EME

Faculty Mentoring Award

Johannes Verlinde
Professor of Meteorology and Associate Head, Graduate Program in Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Honoring Excellence in Teaching

Wilson Award for Excellence in Teaching

Matthew Kumjian
Assistant Professor of Meteorology

G. Montgomery and Marion Mitchell Award for Innovative Teaching

Mort Webster
Associate Professor of Energy Engineering

George H. K. Schenck Teaching Assistant Award

Carolynne Hultquist
Ph.D. Candidate in Geography
Wilson Award for Excellence in Research

Russell Johns
Professor of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Faculty Fellow

Jillian Goldfarb
Assistant Professor of Energy Engineering
“Re-Engineering the Integrated Biorefinery for Sustainable Fuels and Nanomaterials”
George H. Deike, Jr. Research Grant

Guido Cervone
Associate Professor of Geoinformatics and Associate Director, Institute for CyberScience

Wilson Research Initiation Grant

Robert Hickey
Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
“Nanostructured Polymeric Materials for Hydrogen Gas Storage using Frustrated Lewis Pairs”

Mohammad Rezaee
Assistant Professor of Mining Engineering
“Feasibility Study of Recovering Rare Earth Elements from Coal Waste Streams Through an Integrated Bio-Extraction Process”

Tieyuan Zhu
Assistant Professor of Geosciences
“Quantifying Subsurface CO2 Leakage Hazards Using Seismic Coda Waves”
Celebrating Junior Faculty Accomplishments

Gladys Snyder Junior Faculty Grants

Tanushree Choudhury
Research Associate
“Site Specific Growth of Transition Metal Dichalcogenides”

Robert Hickey
Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
“Colloids and Hydrogels Created from Self-Assembled Amphiphilic Block Polymers”

Lauren Zarzar
Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
“Development of Fluid Intelligence in STEM Education and Research”
Paul F. Robertson Award for the EMS Breakthrough of the Year

Roman Engel-Herbert
Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Charles L. Hosler Alumni Scholar Medal

Turgay Ertekin
Professor Emeritus of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
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