2021
Wilson Awards
Presentation
Virtual Celebration
Sunday, April 11, 2021
2021 Wilson Awards Presentation

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

Sunday, April 11, 2021

6:30 p.m. Reception
(Zoom breakout rooms)
7 p.m. Virtual Awards Presentation
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.”
College-level Student Awards

Jay M. and Katherine DeFinis Award for Outstanding Student Leadership

Samantha Staskiewicz, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Christopher Long, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science and Geography

Ellen Steidle Achievement Award

Senior: Christopher Long, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science and Geography
Junior: Sean Melanson, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Dean Edward Steidle Memorial Scholar Award

Xiaoyu Zou, Geosciences

GEMS Diamond Award

Christopher Long, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science and Geography

Honorable Mention: Kayla McCauley, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Student Marshal

Mingsong Chen, B.S. Energy Business and Finance and Earth Sciences, Minor in Statistics

Mingson, a Schreyer Scholar, will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA.

Engineering Honor Marshal

Madeline Vailhe, B.S. Materials Science and Engineering, Minor in Engineering Mechanics

Madeline, a Schreyer Scholar, will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a 3.98 cumulative GPA.
EMSAGE Laureates

The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Academy for Global Experience (EMSAGE) is the college’s signature undergraduate recognition program. Select students are recognized with the distinctive designation of EMSAGE Laureate.

Fall 2020 EMSAGE Laureates

- Amanda Byrd, Geography
- Natalie Cummings, Materials Science and Engineering
- Christian Erikson, Earth Sciences
- Salix Iverson, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Kelsey Jenkins, Materials Science and Engineering
- Grace Kimzey, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Cove Klaas-Bentley, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Grant LaChat, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Christopher Long, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Natalie Mamrol, Materials Science and Engineering
- Kayla McCauley, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Elizabeth McIntyre, Materials Science and Engineering
- Jacob Morse, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Donovan Moses, Materials Science and Engineering
- Theresa Novak, Materials Science and Engineering
- Talia Potochny, Geography
- Harman Singh, Geography
- Mason Taylor, Energy and Sustainability Policy
- Sophie Tessier, Geography
- Isabella Urbina, Materials Science and Engineering
- Madeline Vailhe, Materials Science and Engineering
- Nathaniel Vislosky, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Kaylen Woods, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Spring 2021 EMSAGE Laureates

- Al Reem Alshimmari, Geosciences
- Robin Carbaugh, Geosciences
- Alexandra Hatfield, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Mona Hill, Energy and Sustainability Policy
- Shane Leister, Geography
- Yizheng Liu, Materials Science and Engineering
- Rachel Martin, Materials Science and Engineering
- Colton Milcarek, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Megan Penrod, Materials Science and Engineering
- Jenna Pulice, Geography
- Stanley Swithers, Energy and Sustainability Policy
Promotion and Tenure

Jeremy Gernand, Associate Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
Hojong Kim, Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Fritz Kessler, Teaching Professor, Geography
Chiara Lo Prete, Associate Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
Joshua Robinson, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
William Syrett, Associate Teaching Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Gregory Thomas, Associate Teaching Professor, Geography
Jian-Jun Wang, Associate Research Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Christelle Wauthier, Associate Professor, Geosciences

Retirements

John Hellmann, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Education and Research Emeritus
Mark Klima, Associate Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
David Pollard, Research Professor Emeritus, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute
Chunshan Song, Distinguished Professor of Fuel Science Emeritus and Director, EMS Energy Institute
Todd Sowers, Research Professor Emeritus, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute

25-Year Service Awards

Ralph Colby, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
April Millet, Assistant Teaching Professor, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute
**Gladys Snyder Junior Faculty Grants**

**Allison Baczyński**, Assistant Research Professor, Geosciences

“Reinterpreting landscape change in the Denver Basin: geochemical evidence for the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum”

**Kevin Bowley**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

“Into the Simulator: Development of the next generation community weather forecasting training tool for Penn State students and beyond”

**Maria Higgins**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

“Gamma-ray induced degradation of Polyethylene terephthalate. Radiation therapy for water resources”

**John Hooker**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Geosciences

“Geochemical tracers of fluid flow through fractures in the Appalachian basin: A field laboratory for student-led research in Penn State’s backyard”

**Miquela Ingalls**, Assistant Professor, Geosciences

“Creation of teaching collections and an accompanying virtual field trip to support the development of a sedimentology and stratigraphy course”

**Rob Lydick**, Researcher and On-Air Meteorologist, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

“Enhancing Student Experiences in Weather Communications”

**André J. van der Vlies**, Assistant Research Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

“Elucidating the role of chemical structure on charge transport in conducting polymers”
Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award

Joshua Garber
Postdoctoral Scholar, Geosciences

Yang Liu
Postdoctoral Scholar, Materials Science and Engineering

George H. K. Schenck Teaching Assistant Award

Julia Carr
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Geosciences
Catherine Lyons Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Undergraduate Student Award

Kayla McCauley
Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Catherine Lyons Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Graduate Student Award

Ama Agyapong
Materials Science and Engineering

Charles Hosler Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Faculty Award

Luis Ayala
John and Willie Leone Family Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering
G. Montgomery and Marion Mitchell Award for Innovative Teaching

Jennifer Babb
Megan Kohler
April Millet
Jane Sutterlin
Maria Wherley
Mark Wherley

All Learning Designers in the John A. Dutton e-Education Institute
Wilson Award for Outstanding Service

Douglas Miller
Research Professor, Geography and Earth and Environmental Systems Institute

Roman Engel-Herbert
Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

Jon-Paul Maria
Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

Faculty Advising Award

Feineman, Maureen
Associate Research Professor & Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs, Geosciences

Eugene Morgan
Assistant Teaching Professor & Associate Head for Undergraduate Education, EME
Faculty Mentoring Award

Luis Ayala
Professor of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering & William A. Fustos Family Professor

Guido Cervone
Professor of Geography & Associate Director, Institute for Computational and Data Sciences

Kenneth Davis
Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Science

Suzanne Mohney
Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Mark Patzkowsky
Professor of Geosciences & Associate Head for Graduate Programs and Research
Wilson Award for Excellence in Teaching

Ismaila Dabo
Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Corning Faculty Fellow in Ceramic Science and Engineering

Wilson Award for Excellence in Research

Sukyoung Lee
Professor of Meteorology
E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller
Faculty Fellow

Hamid Emami-Meybodi
Assistant Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering
“Transport Behavior of Condensed Fluids in Ultratight Porous Media: Evidence for Mechanisms Other Than Advection”

George H. Deike, Jr. Research Grant

Feifei Shi
Assistant Professor of Energy Engineering & Virginia S. and Philip L. Walker Faculty Fellow

Mohammad Rezaee
Assistant Professor of Mining Engineering & Thomas V. and Jean C. Falkie Mining Engineering Faculty Fellow

“Unlocking Unconventional Lithium Resources through Development of Efficient, Low-cost, and Environmentally Benign Extraction Processes and Production of Lithium Battery Products”
Wilson Research Initiation Grant

Wesley Reinhart
Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
“Inverse design of hierarchical structures in a model copolymer”

Paul F. Robertson Award for EMS Research Breakthrough of the Year

Long-Qing Chen
Donald W. Hamer Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics, and Professor of Mathematics
Charles L. Hosler
Alumni Scholar Medal

Virginia Ciminelli
Professor in the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Congratulations to all of our awardees!
This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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U.Ed. EMS 21-28