2023 Wilson Awards Banquet

PennState College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
2023
Wilson Awards Banquet

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

Sunday, April 23, 2023
5 p.m. Reception
6 p.m. Dinner
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.”
Welcome

Lee Kump, John Leone Dean in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences

Promotion and Tenure

Jennifer Baka, Associate Professor, Geography
Zachary Barkley, Assistant Research Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Anthony Didlake, Associate Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Bradford Foley, Associate Professor, Geosciences
Derek Hall, Associate Teaching Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
Robert Hickey, Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Eugene Morgan, Associate Teaching Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
Bed Poudel, Research Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Bronwen Powell, Associate Professor, Geography
Arash Dahi Taleghani, Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
Andrew Smye, Associate Professor, Geosciences
Tieyuan Zhu, Associate Professor, Geosciences

25-Year Service Awards

James Adair, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, and Biomedical Engineering and Pharmacology
Lorraine Dowler, Professor of Geography, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and International Affairs; Associate Head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Geography
William Easterling, Former Dean and Professor of Geography
Laura Liermann, Assistant Research Professor, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute
Victoria Sanchez, Associate Dean for Educational Equity
Retirements

David Bice, Teaching Professor, Geosciences
Andrew Carleton, Professor, Geography
Roger Downs, Professor, Geography
Steven Feldstein, Research Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
James Kasting, Evan Pugh University Professor, Geosciences
Elizabeth Kupp, Associate Teaching Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Ljubisa Radovic, Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
George Young, Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Yi Wang, Research Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

Gladys Snyder Junior Faculty Grants

Brandi Gaertner
Assistant Teaching Professor, Geography
“Historical and Future Climate and Hydrologic Changes in the Mid-Atlantic, United States”

Louisa Holmes
Assistant Professor, Geography
“Spatial and contextual variations in opioid use and co-use across Pennsylvania in the wake of COVID-19”

Ashish Ranjan Kumar
Assistant Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering
“Development of a Virtual Reality System for Classroom Teaching of Complex Mining Operations”

Benjamin Reppert
Lecturer, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
“Enhancing the Online Education Environment with State-of-the-Art, Hands-on Technology to Connect the Classroom and the Real World”
George H. Deike, Jr. Research Grant

Barbara Arnold
Professor of Practice in Mining Engineering

“Revalorization of mine tailings”

E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Faculty Fellow

Luis Ayala
William A. Fustos Family Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering

“Pore-scale investigation of multicomponent, multiphase flow of geofluids: A fugacity-based mesoscopic approach”

Wilson Research Initiation Grant

Anastasia Piliouras
Assistant Professor of Geosciences

“Variability in bluff retreat on Pennsylvania’s Lake Erie coast”
College-level Student Awards

Jay M. and Katherine DeFinis Award for Outstanding Student Leadership

Undergraduate: Luke Winand, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Graduate: Luke LeBel and Sarah Wugofski, both Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Ellen Steidle Achievement Award
Senior: Hannah Chop, Environmental Systems Engineering
Junior: Emily Shiels, Geography

Dean Edward Steidle Memorial Scholar Award
Martha Christino, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

GEMS Diamond Award
Athbi Alfarhan, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

GEMS Diamond Award Runner-up
Luke Winand, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Student Marshal
Martha Christino, B.S. Meteorology and Atmospheric Science and Civil Engineering, Minor in Military Studies
Martha, a Schreyer Scholar, will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA.

Engineering Honor Marshal
Bevan Harbinson, B.S. Materials Science and Engineering
Bevan a Schreyer Scholar, will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a perfect 4.0 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 2021 EMSAGE Laureates

- Michael Ammendola, Materials Science and Engineering
- Delián Colón Burgos, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Lucas Erich, Materials Science and Engineering
- Gabriel Hiestand, Environmental Systems Engineering
- Aarushi Jadhav, Materials Science and Engineering
- Isabelle Jernigan, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Alison Johnston, Geography
- Conner Patton, Energy Engineering
- Camila Pena, Geography
- Meredith Pepka, Environmental Systems Engineering
- Katherine Rasmussen, Environmental Systems Engineering
- Meddelin Setiawan, Materials Science and Engineering
- Sunday Siomades, Geosciences
- Jordan Thibodeaux, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Zhihan Wang, Energy Business and Finance
- Jun Weng (Wayne) Yeo, Materials Science and Engineering

Spring 2022 EMSAGE Laureates

- Ali Al Hassan, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Mohammed Alarfaj, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Athbi Alfarhan, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Mohammad Badghaish, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Hannah Chop, Environmental Systems Engineering
- Isabella Ferreira, Earth Science and Policy
- Mufaddal Gheewala, Energy Engineering
- Allison Holland, Geography
- David Marcial, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Jaeden Mayzel, Environmental Systems Engineering
- Akhdan Mir, Energy Engineering
- Hunter Reeves, Geosciences
- Angelina Santamaria, Earth Science & Policy and Geography
- Justin Warner, Materials Science and Engineering
- Luke Winand, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
G. Montgomery and Marion Mitchell Award for Innovative Teaching

Brandi Robinson
Assistant Teaching Professor
John A. Dutton Institute of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Mark Fedkin
Assistant Teaching Professor
John A. Dutton Institute of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Haley Sankey
Assistant Teaching Professor
John A. Dutton Institute of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Erich Schienke
Assistant Teaching Professor
Energy and Mineral Engineering

Wilson Award for Excellence in Teaching

Anthony Robinson
Associate Professor of Geography and Director for Online Geospatial Education, Penn State
Nicholas Barron
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

George H. K. Schenck Teaching Assistant Award

Elizabeth Hajek
Associate Professor and Associate Head for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Geosciences

Wilson Award for Outstanding Service

Amy Robinson
Associate Teaching Professor and Associate Head for Undergraduate Studies, Materials Science and Engineering

Faculty Advising Award
Wilson Award for Excellence in Research
Jon-Paul Maria
Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award
Yao Zhou
Materials Science and Engineering

Faculty Mentoring Award
Allison Beese
Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

Steven Seman
Assistant Teaching Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Catherine Lyons Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student Awards

Undergraduate Award
Athbi Alfarhan
Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

Graduate Award
Jasmine Walker
Geosciences

Charles Hosler Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Faculty Award

Charles Hosler Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Postdoctoral Award

Enrique Gomez
Professor of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering

Prakash Purswani
Postdoctoral Scholar, Energy and Mineral Engineering
Paul F. Robertson Award for EMS Research Breakthrough of the Year

Seth Blumsack
Professor of Energy Policy and Economics, Energy and Mineral Engineering, and Director of the Center for Energy Law and Policy

Mort Webster
Professor of Energy Engineering, Energy and Mineral Engineering

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

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