2024 Wilson Awards Banquet

PennState College of Earth and Mineral Sciences
2024
Wilson Awards Banquet

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

Sunday, April 21, 2024
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

Allison Beese, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Trevor Birkenholtz, Professor of Geography

Kevin Bowley, Associate Teaching Professor of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

Mark Fedkin, Associate Teaching Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering

Megan Kohler, Assistant Teaching Professor in the Dutton Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence

Shimin Liu, Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering & Thomas V. and Jean C. Falkie Mining Engineering Faculty Fellow

Amin Mehrabian, Associate Professor of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

Natasha Miles, Research Professor of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

David Miller, Associate Research Professor of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

April Millet, Associate Teaching Professor in the Dutton Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence

Mohammad Rezaee, Associate Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering and Centennial Career Development Professor in Mining Engineering

Brandi Robinson, Associate Teaching Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering

Stevie Rocco, Associate Teaching Professor in the Dutton Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence and Director of Learning Design
25-Year Service Awards

Venkatraman Gopalan, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Tanya Furman, Research Professor of Geosciences
Peter Heaney, Professor of Geosciences
Andrew Kleit, Professor of Energy and Environmental Economics
Zi-Kui Liu, Dorothy Pate Enright Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Evangelos Manias, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Jonathan Mathews, Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering

Retirements

Todd Bacastow, Teaching Professor of Geography
William Easterling, Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Geography
Alan Taylor, Professor Emeritus of Geography
Julianne Snider, Associate Research Professor, EMS Museum & Art Gallery

Gladys Snyder Faculty Enrichment Grants

Antonia Hadjimichael
Assistant Professor of Geosciences
“Navigating the Complexity of Earth System Risks Through Cross-Class Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Experiential Learning”

Kevin Haworth
Assistant Teaching Professor and Giles Writer-in-Residence
“Writing Pedagogy Workshop for Graduate Teaching Assistants”

Emily Rosenman
Assistant Professor of Geography
“The geographies of racial justice philanthropy in Detroit, Michigan”

Pengfei Zhang
Assistant Research Professor of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
“Using machine learning to improve the modeling of air-ice interaction during atmospheric rivers reaching the Arctic”
E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Faculty Fellow

Ida Djenontin
Assistant Professor of Geography

“When governance integration matters for ecosystem restoration-based climate solutions: Assessing contextual institutional arrangements for effective landscape governance of restoration initiatives”

George H. Deike, Jr. Research Grant

Louisa Holmes and Emily Rosenman
Assistant Professors of Geography

“Geographies of Corporate Harm: Countering Opioid Marketing Tactics at Multiple Scales”

Wilson Research Initiation Grant

Nairiti Sinha
Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

“Bioinspired synthesis of chiral gold nanoparticles in coacervate core micelles”
College-level Student Awards

Jay M. and Katherine DeFinis Award for Outstanding Student Leadership

Undergraduate: Emily Shiels, Geography
Graduate: Harman Singh, Geography

Ellen Steidle Achievement Award

Senior: Emily Shiels, Geography
Junior: Danielle Dedeaux, Geography

Dean Edward Steidle Memorial Scholar Award

Christian Spallone, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

GEMS Diamond Award

Tori Miller, Environmental Systems Engineering

Student Marshal

Michael Mervosh, B.S. Materials Science and Engineering

Michael will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 cumulative GPA

Science Honor Marshal

Brenden Franks, B.S. Geography and Finance

Brenden will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a 3.99 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 2023 EMSAGE Laureates

- Nate Cherok, Geography
- Olivia DiPrinzio, Earth Science and Policy
- Sarah Fetter, Earth Science
- Jongkyeong (Martin) Kim, Materials Science and Engineering
- Michael Mervosh, Materials Science and Engineering
- Tsunami Sharmba, Environmental Systems Engineering
- Emily Shiels, Geography
- Alekya Srinivasan, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Joe Thompson, Energy and Sustainability Policy

Spring 2024 EMSAGE Laureates

- Olivia Adams, Earth Sciences
- Sami Al Azri, Energy Engineering
- Elizabeth Baierlein, Energy Engineering
- Zachary Baran, Geosciences
- Alexander Cerminaro, Geosciences
- Gwendolyn Cullen, Energy Business and Finance
- Danielle Dedeaux, Geography
- Emma Enos, Geobiology
- Clare Gibson, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Cris Kocian, Geobiology
- Sonya Lewis, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- Alexandra Lister, Geography
- Valentina Marin Lopez, Geosciences
- Tori Miller, Environmental Systems Engineering
- Adam Sipe, Materials Science and Engineering
- Octavia Szkutnik, Earth Science and Policy
- Alejandro Toro, Materials Science and Engineering
- Amanda Urist, Geosciences
- Caden Vitti, Energy Engineering
G. Montgomery and Marion Mitchell Award for Innovative Teaching

Wesley Reinhart
Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Wilson Award for Excellence in Teaching

Melissa Gervais
Assistant Professor of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

George H. K. Schenck Teaching Assistant Award

Ianna Gomez Mendez
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Energy and Mineral Engineering
Wilson Award for Outstanding Service

Donald Fisher
Professor of Geosciences

Faculty Advising Award

Ronald Redwing
Associate Teaching Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Faculty Mentoring Award

Robert Hickey
Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Undergraduate Award

Danielle Dedeaux
Geography

Graduate Award

Harman Singh
Geography

Charles Hosler Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Faculty Award

Allison Beese
Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Associate Head for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in MatSE

Charles Hosler Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Postdoctoral Award

Jacob Carstens
Postdoctoral Scholar, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
Wilson Award for Excellence in Research

Christopher House
Professor of Geosciences

Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award

Nicholas Clark
Materials Science and Engineering

Paul F. Robertson Award for Research Breakthrough of the Year

Jesse Reimink
Assistant Professor of Geosciences and Rudy L. Slingerland Early Career Professor
Congratulations
to all of our awardees!