

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

FACULTY  
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING  
AWARDS  
2018



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



## FACULTY DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS / 2018

# RECIPIENTS

### CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

**Philip Brown**, Professor, Geoscience

**Thomas Brunold**, Professor, Chemistry

**Daniel J. Klingenberg**, Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Nancy Rose Marshall**, Professor, Art History

**David McDonald**, Professor, History

**Michael Thornton**, Professor, Afro-American Studies

### CHANCELLOR'S INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

**Jerome Camal**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology

**Ellen Damschen**, Associate Professor, Integrative Biology

### CLASS OF 1955 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

**Miriam Seifter**, Assistant Professor, Law School

### EMIL H. STEIGER TEACHING AWARD

**Simon Gilroy**, Professor, Botany

### VAN HISE OUTREACH TEACHING AWARD

**Majid Sarmadi**, Professor, School of Human Ecology

### WILLIAM H. KIEKHOFER TEACHING AWARD

**Erica Simmons**, Assistant Professor, Political Science

## CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

### PROFESSOR PHILIP BROWN

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Geoscience

Throughout his career, Brown has been the welcoming face of the undergraduate major's program, directly responsible for influencing the career paths of generations of students. He has made an immeasurable impact on the success of the department, teaching most of the graduating seniors in one course or another. He has been largely responsible for the continuity of the well-regarded Wasatch-Uinta Summer Field Camp, a six-week active learning experience in the mountains near Park City, Utah, that instructs students drawn from five universities in the Midwest. Under his directorship, this program won the ExxonMobil/Geological Society of America Field Camp Excellence Award in 2013.

"Geosciences encompass a breadth of subjects that occupy the center of a Venn diagram comprised of physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, and other natural and physical sciences"

– Professor Philip Brown



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## PROFESSOR THOMAS BRUNOLD

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Chemistry

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Brunold exemplifies the characteristics of excellence, innovation, and leadership. Although he teaches classes of more than 300 students on a regular basis, he is known for his unusual accessibility, his passion, and his genuine concern for his students. He has routinely pushed himself to incorporate new techniques into the classroom to maximize their effectiveness. His graduate and undergraduate courses are notable for their unique development of innovative materials. One overarching goal of his classes concerns the incorporation of interactive exercises that enable students to actively explore complex phenomena, such as the origins of spectroscopic features of molecules, the creation of molecular orbital diagrams, or the simulation of normal modes of vibration.

“Professor Brunold is really motivated to help students and I really appreciated his enthusiasm throughout the semester.”

– Former Student



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## PROFESSOR DANIEL J. KLINGENBERG

College of Engineering

Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

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Klingenberg has been a member of the chemical and biological engineering faculty for more than two decades. During that time, he has made extraordinary contributions to the educational mission of the department and the College of Engineering. He is an expert in rheology and transport phenomena and brings that expertise to the classroom when he regularly teaches one of the core junior-level undergraduate classes, CBE 320 “Introductory Transport Phenomena.” Despite the fact that he is teaching in his field of expertise, he intuitively understands why students struggle with the material and he empathizes with them. He has a unique ability to explain concepts and illustrate ideas in ways that help students grasp the material while still retaining the necessary rigor and mathematical complexity.

“[He has a] truly multifaceted commitment to excellence, which is exemplified not just by his activities in teaching, but also by his leadership in shaping the future of the engineering curriculum through course development activities and service.”

– Professor Michael D. Graham



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## PROFESSOR NANCY ROSE MARSHALL

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Art History

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Marshall's distinctive achievements in teaching fall into three principal categories: innovations in the classroom/pedagogy; course and curriculum development; and mentoring. While developing an international reputation as a leading scholar of Victorian art, she continues to devote considerable energy to achieving excellence in the classroom. In Art History 202, she has always insisted from the start in moving about the large lecture hall free of notes, but she has never settled on working from fixed lectures or sticking with the same format. She changes her reading assignments every semester, and often tries to bring in contemporary debates about art or issues in the news to demonstrate art history's relevance. She also designs creative assignments making use of popular culture which elicit students' creative instincts.

“In the classroom, Professor Marshall has never ceased to inspire.”

– Professor Anna Vemer Andrzejewski



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## PROFESSOR DAVID MCDONALD

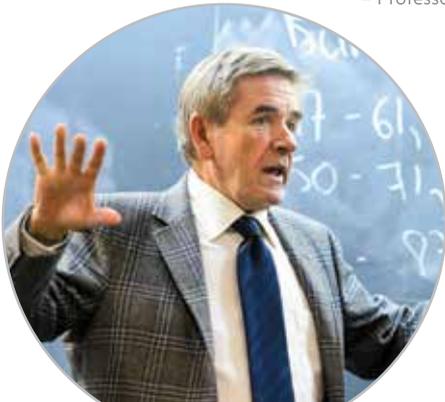
College of Letters & Science  
Department of History

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Since his arrival at UW–Madison in 1988, McDonald has taught rigorous and innovative classes that have held students spellbound due to his knowledge and intelligence and his funny down-to-earth style. Students and colleagues alike praise McDonald for his intellectual and pedagogical creativity, his ability to make learning both relevant and exciting, his skill at breaking down the tasks involved in historical analysis and academic writing, his ability to convey historical methods clearly to students through illuminating lectures, and how he facilitates discussions and thoughtful, carefully designed assignments. He teaches from both the head and heart, knowing exactly what he wants students to learn from each lecture and assignment. McDonald draws on his own deep knowledge of the subject to elicit their full attention and draws them in with his genuine care for and commitment to their learning.

“[He makes] the strange familiar with respect to Russian history, and the familiar strange in teaching students to view U.S. sports from a critical historical perspective.”

– Professor Anne Hansen



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## PROFESSOR MICHAEL THORNTON

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Afro-American Studies

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Thornton continuously showcases the newest scholarship on current social issues while his own work on multi-ethnic identity has been in the vanguard of ethnic studies/inter-group scholarship. He has continuously received outstanding evaluations from his students, even among those who found his courses exceptionally demanding. His students repeatedly commented on how he challenged them to re-think their assumptions, how his courses changed their lives, and how knowledgeable he is. They also noted that despite the often-contentious subject matter, he created both a safe environment and an intellectually rigorous classroom climate where diverse ideas and perspectives could be openly and honestly debated. This is a remarkable skill, perhaps never more so than in our current fractious political climate.

“[His] reward comes from his knowing that the students who enter his class during the first week...leave at the end of the semester having learned as much about themselves as they did about the subjects that he teaches.”

– Professor Sandra Adell

## CHANCELLOR'S INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

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### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JEROME CAMAL

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Anthropology

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Students find Camal's teaching to be stimulating, challenging, eye-opening, and inspiring. He does an amazing job teaching by example, deeply engaging teaching assistants in thinking about and discussing the attributes of the best teachers they have had and then having the TAs work in small groups to develop a classroom exercise for students that would make use of the best practices they had identified. In the process, he shares with them his own evolution in teaching. He has developed a couple of new courses for the department that build on his ethnomusicology background. One is Anthro 237, Music, Race, and Culture in the Caribbean, and the other is Anthro 330, the Anthropology of Dance. In both courses, he utilizes strategies that fully engage students through multiple senses — listening, feeling, thinking and moving.

"This course was unlike any other I have taken and really brought light to information I've never thought about ... Professor Camal was great."

– Former Student



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## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ELLEN DAMSCHEN

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Integrative Biology

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Damschen is known for empowering students to develop critical thinking skills that allow them to succeed in their careers and in life. She is a strong role model as a female faculty member, teacher, and scientist. She empowers students to be independent scientists and thinkers through active engagement at all levels of learning and research. Damschen works especially hard to address gender and other inequalities in the classroom and in research. She runs a major research program, modeling what it means to be a successful woman in science and providing opportunities for students at all levels to actively engage in the research process. Damschen stands out in her ability to use teaching approaches that are grounded in the literature, especially regarding gender differences in student learning, to empower her students.

“It is faculty like Ellen who make UW-Madison the remarkable place that it is.”

– Professor Jeff Hardin



## CLASS OF 1955 TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

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### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MIRIAM SEIFTER

Law School

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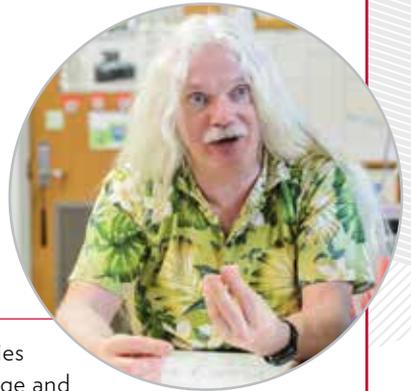
Seifter has been at the Law School since 2014 and her outstanding teaching has already won her the Law School's 2017 Teacher of the Year award, a rare feat for a professor so early in her career. Her near-perfect course evaluation scores, attained in teaching large core courses in the Law School's curriculum, tell part of the story of her remarkable classroom abilities. Students comment on how clearly she explains difficult and dense concepts. She's also known for the extraordinary extent to which she prepares for and organizes her courses. In her classes, Seifter uses the traditional law school Socratic method, cold-calling students on the readings for the day. Many remark how it keeps the class engaged without being intimidating. Her approachability and sense of humor are also routinely praised, both of which further enhance her ability to communicate dry and difficult materials.

"Her preparation, methodical approach, attention to detail, and charm made this course an absolute joy!"

– Former Student



## EMIL H. STEIGER TEACHING AWARD



### PROFESSOR SIMON GILROY

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Botany

Gilroy has a true gift for using amusing analogies and creative demonstrations in lecture to engage and excite students. He does this through his unusual ability to see a key concept hidden among a forest of detailed facts and terms and then encapsulate that core idea in an accessible and memorable way. Additionally, he has a manner that sets introductory biology students at ease and empowers them to approach even complex material with a sense of confidence. Gilroy has a rare ability to build interdisciplinary teams of students and foster an environment in which they can let their creativity loose. He also has a great enthusiasm for public engagement and outreach. His lab offers interactive booths for the public at diverse outreach events, including the Wisconsin Science Festival. Gilroy is not just a highly successful and well-funded research scientist but also a creative, engaging, and highly impactful teacher and outreach ambassador.

“He understands the value of a student’s educational experience and wants to provide resources to help them succeed.”

– Ashley Batra, Former Student

## VAN HISE OUTREACH TEACHING AWARD

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### PROFESSOR MAJID SARMADI

School of Human Ecology

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Beyond Majid Sarmadi's academic accomplishments is a deep commitment to sharing his considerable expertise outside of the classroom in order to help as many people as possible. He does so with passion and ingenuity, taking initiative as needed to continually connect with new audiences. A chemist by training, Sarmadi has disseminated his research through a variety of engaging and novel teaching methods that have impacted diverse learners, from high school students to state legislators. He has made immeasurable contributions to the state's economic development, consumer safety and environmental preservation. He is an expert in sustainability and as such, he sees it as his responsibility to educate anyone who is interested in the impact of our consumption and lifestyle upon the environment. Sarmadi has created a variety of forums and learning opportunities to make a difference and empower individuals and industries to take action and change.

“Dr. Sarmadi has been integral to my understanding of the values of the University of Wisconsin.”

– Aaron Kellerhuis, Former Student



## WILLIAM H. KIEKHOFFER TEACHING AWARD

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### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ERICA SIMMONS

College of Letters & Science  
Department of Political Science

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Simmons is a scholar of comparative politics, with a regional focus on Latin America and a thematic focus on contentious politics and social movements. She has also published important work on ethnographic methodology, advancing understanding of how comparative ethnography can contribute to causal identification. An innovative scholar, she brings this innovation to bear on her teaching, in and out of the classroom. Simmons forges deep connections with her students, and as a mentor and advisor motivates them to continue their studies well beyond the courses she teaches. She works with students on independent research, fostering in them an appreciation of social science methods. Always encouraging students' intellectual development, Simmons promotes a classroom environment that is both remarkably participatory and inclusive, inspiring them to continue their studies in law or professional school or in their careers.



“Professor Simmons is, simply put, an outstanding teacher.”

– Professor Nils Ringe

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## ABOUT THE AWARDS

Since 1953, the University of Wisconsin–Madison has been honoring its finest educators with Faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards. In addition to recognition at this ceremony, each honoree receives an award of \$5,000.

### **Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award**

Established by former UW–Madison chancellor Edwin Young in 1973, the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award honors six faculty members for their excellence in teaching.

### **Chancellor’s Inclusive Excellence Award**

The Chancellor’s Inclusive Excellence Award celebrates exemplary achievements in teaching that honor the university’s value of diversity and inclusion as the path to excellence. This award recognizes outstanding faculty whose creative and innovative teaching develops strategies that promote diverse and inclusive environments and practices in the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea.

### **Class of 1955 Teaching Excellence Award**

During its 25-year reunion, the Class of 1955 established a fund to honor professors, especially at the assistant and associate rank, who have made significant teaching contributions to undergraduate students. The Class of 1955 Teaching Excellence Award was first presented in 2004.

### **Emil H. Steiger Teaching Award**

Manufacturer Emil H. Steiger served as the president of the Deltox Grass Rug Company of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, from 1909 until

his death in 1929. A passionate supporter of education — and of Wisconsin’s state universities in particular — Steiger sent his two sons, Carl and Emil, to the UW. The younger Emil Steiger became a UW regent in 1952 and served as president of the board of regents from 1959 to 1962. He and Carl created the Emil H. Steiger Teaching Award in 1958 to honor their father. Traditionally, the Steiger Award has been given to a junior faculty member.

### **Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award**

As president of the University of Wisconsin from 1903 to 1918, Charles Van Hise developed the doctrine known today as the Wisconsin Idea: the guiding philosophy of UW–Madison’s outreach efforts to extend the borders of the university to touch the lives of people throughout Wisconsin and around the world. The Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award was established in 1990 to honor distinguished outreach teaching by a member of UW–Madison’s faculty.

### **William H. Kiekhofers Teaching Award**

Legendary economics professor William “Wild Bill” Kiekhofers taught upwards of 70,000 undergraduates during the course of his 38-year UW career. Known nationally for the textbook *Economic Principles, Problems, and Policies* — one of the best-selling texts of the first half of the 20th century — he was a beloved figure on campus, and before each of his lectures, his students would give him a “skyrocket” cheer. The Kiekhofers Award, which honors an assistant or associate professor in the College of Letters & Science, was established as the UW’s first teaching award shortly after Wild Bill’s death in 1951.

## **FACULTY DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS / 2018**

# COMMITTEE

The secretary of the faculty acknowledges the contributions of the 2018 Faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards committee.

**Emily Caudill**, Graduate Student

**Finn Enke**, Professor, Gender and Women's Studies

**Jacob Gardner**, Student

**Jan Heide**, Professor, Marketing

**Regina Murphy**, Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering

**Sissel Schroeder**, Professor, Anthropology

**Gary Shiu** (Chair), Professor, Physics

**Jamie Adcock**, Office of the Secretary of the Faculty, ex officio



The Office of the Secretary of the Faculty is proud to sponsor this event, with support from University Communications, to recognize that excellence in teaching is part of what makes the University of Wisconsin–Madison a world-class institution.



**Office of the  
Secretary of the Faculty**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON