OU recognizes outstanding faculty at annual luncheon

Oakland University honored more than 30 faculty members for their scholarly achievements, dedication, path-breaking discoveries in research and critical teaching roles in educating the leaders of tomorrow during its 22nd Annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, April 19.

The luncheon, held at the Oakland Center, is traditionally held on Founder's Day, which honors the memory of University benefactors Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, whose gift of land and seed money has enriched the lives of thousands of people since Oakland University’s founding in 1957.

“Each year on Founder's Day we honor the proud history and promising future of Oakland University,” said Dr. James Lentini, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. “We’re able to celebrate this because OU has long welcomed a community that embraces teaching and research excellence, scholarly productivity, creative achievements and community service.

“The work of faculty members across campus, both inside and outside the classroom, has relevance, substance and an impact that truly leads to positive change in the world around us. Further, and equally important, it enables and inspires students to do the very same.”

During the luncheon, Dr. Yang Xia, a professor of physics and prominent researcher in the microscopic imaging of cartilage degradation, was recognized as the university’s Distinguished Professor for 2017.

“It’s the highest honor, and I'm very honored to have received this recognition from my peers,” said Xia, whose research interests include microscopic imaging and multi-disciplinary correlation, quantitative mapping of physical parameters in biological systems, image analysis processing and applications in complex systems.

According to Lentini, the National Institutes of Health has continuously funded Dr. Xia's research since 1999. To date, he has received $7.5 million from the NIH.

“Dr. Xia’s prominence can also be measured by the numerous invitations for him to speak at the international conferences and workshops both in clinical research and in fundamental sciences,” Lentini said.

In addition to having organized and chaired three special workshops at the conferences of the Orthopaedic Research Society – the most prominent academic society in the area of musculoskeletal tissue and organ research – Dr. Xia is also a regular reviewer of grant proposals NIH and has reviewed for other organizations including the Arthritis Foundation, the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation in Australia, and the Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation.

“Dr. Xia is also a dedicated instructor and sought after mentor, working with high school students, undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and an international array of visiting faculty in his lab,” Lentini said. “Many of his undergraduates have gone on to become professors at other institutions carrying his legacy to new generations of students.”

In addition to Dr. Xia, several other OU faculty members were recognized at the luncheon, including this year’s honorees include:

College of Arts and Sciences

- Cristian Cantir, Ph.D.
  Assistant Professor of Political Science
  Area of Recognition: Teaching

- Daniel J. Clark, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor of History
  Area of Recognition: Teaching
Lynn Galbreath Fausone, M.F.A.
Adjunct Professor of Art
Area of Recognition: Service

Charlene Ann Hayden, Ph.D.
Special Instructor of Chemistry
Area of Recognition: Service and Teaching

Andrea T. Kozak, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology
Area of Recognition: Teaching

Brendan Kredell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies
Area of Recognition: Research

Melissa M. McDonald, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Area of Recognition: Research

Daniel E. Steffy, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics
Area of Recognition: Research

Tian Tian, D.M.A.
Assistant Professor of Music
Area of Recognition: Research

Vasyl Tyberkevych, Ph.D.
Research Associate Professor of Physics
Area of Recognition: Research

Josephine Walwema, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Writing and Rhetoric
Area of Recognition: Service

School of Business

Joseph H. Callaghan, Ph.D.
Professor of Accounting
Areas of Recognition: Research, Teaching and Service

Joy Ruihua Jiang, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Management and Marketing
Area of Recognition: Service

Jae Hyeung Kang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship
Area of Recognition: Research

School of Education and Human Services

Cynthia Carver, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education
Area of Recognition: Research

Darlene Groomes, Ph.D.
Area of Recognition: Service

- Terri Jongekrijg, Ph.D.
  Visiting Assistant Professor of Education
  Area of Recognition: Teaching

School of Engineering and Computer Science

- Sergey Golovashchenko, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering
  Area of Recognition: Research

- Barbara Oakley, Ph.D.
  Professor of Engineering
  Area of Recognition: Teaching

School of Health Sciences

- Rebecca Cheezum, Ph.D.
  Assistant Professor of Health Sciences
  Area of Recognition: Service

School of Nursing

- Kimberly Holka, DNP
  Adjunct Instructor of Nursing
  Area of Recognition: Teaching and Service

School of Medicine

- Nelia Afonso, M.D.
  Professor of Biomedical Sciences
  Area of Recognition: Teaching and Services

Eye Research Institute

- Andrew Goldberg, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences
  Area of Recognition: Research

Excellence in Teaching Award

- Michelle Plattenberger
  Special Lecturer
  Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Teaching Excellence Award

- John Krauss, Ph.D.
  Professor of Physical Therapy
  Department of Physical Therapy

New Investigative Research Excellence Award

- Fabia Ursula Battistuzzi, Ph.D.
  Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences
  Department of Biological Sciences

Research Excellence Award
Craig Martin, Ph.D.
Professor of History
Department of History

Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award

Ledong Li, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education
Department of Reading and Language Arts

2016 University Assessment Award

Department of Writing and Rhetoric
College of Arts and Sciences

“I would like to commend the dedication of each of the honorees,” Lentini said. “Their work inspires us and helps us advance an already rich tradition of excellence.”