The achievements of Penn State’s students, faculty, and staff are the essence of our University. Each year we recognize the highest levels of academic excellence, outstanding leadership, and meritorious service within Penn State. The talent, hard work, and high standards underlying the awards being presented today are a wonderful expression of what is meant when we say, “We are Penn State.”

The individuals we honor are members of a highly select group and warrant not only our warmest congratulations but also our admiration and appreciation for their noteworthy accomplishments. On behalf of the Penn State family, I wish to thank this year’s award winners for representing our University so well and to applaud their outstanding accomplishments and contributions.

Eric J. Barron
President
WELCOME
Eric J. Barron, President

PRESENTATION OF UNDERGRADUATE FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS
Nicholas P. Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost

THE MILTON S. EISENHOWER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING, established in 1992 and named for the eleventh president of the University (1950-56), recognizes outstanding teaching. Recipients must be tenured faculty, employed as full-time members of the faculty for a minimum of five years, and have undergraduate teaching as a major portion of their assignments.

Nathanial Brown, Professor of Mathematics, Eberly College of Science, University Park

Courtney Nagle, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education, Penn State Behrend

THE GEORGE W. ATHERTON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING is being given today to six faculty members in recognition of their excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level. Recipients must be full-time faculty for a minimum of three years and have undergraduate teaching as a primary responsibility.

Carol Charmaine E. Evans, Lecturer in Biology, University College, Penn State Fayette

Lauren C. Kramer, Associate Teaching Professor, College of Health and Human Development, University Park

Debra A. Majetic, Assistant Teaching Professor, Program Coordinator of Radiological Sciences, University College, Penn State New Kensington

Heather McCune Bruhn, Assistant Teaching Professor of Art History, College of Arts and Architecture, University Park

Ashley N. Patterson, Assistant Professor of Education, College of Education, University Park

Eric Robbins, Assistant Teaching Professor of Finance, Black School of Business, Penn State Behrend
PRESENTATION OF UNDERGRADUATE FACULTY TEACHING AND ADVISING AWARDS
Kathryn J. Bieschke, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

THE PENN STATE TEACHING FELLOW: THE PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, awarded to a tenured faculty member with at least three years experience at the University, honors and encourages distinguished teaching. In addition to the cash award, Fellows receive a grant-in-aid for use by their home academic department for the improvement of undergraduate instruction. Established in 1988 by the Penn State Alumni Association in conjunction with undergraduate and graduate student governing bodies, the Penn State Teaching Fellow program is supported by a substantial endowment provided by the Penn State Alumni Association.

Fred Fonseca, Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, College of Information Sciences and Technology, University Park
Marinda Kathryn Harrell-Levy, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University College, Penn State Brandywine
Jessica B. Schocker, Associate Professor of Social Studies Education and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, Penn State Berks

THE PENN STATE EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING AWARD, established by the Undergraduate Student Government’s Academic Assembly and sponsored by each college, honors one full-time faculty member and one full-time professional adviser from any Penn State location, each of whom has at least two years of advising experience. Selection criteria are based on excellence in general advising, academic guidance, career guidance, enthusiasm, and assistance in decision making and goal setting. Award recipients are expected to share their successful advising techniques and expertise with other faculty and graduate assistants by participating in lectures, workshops, and symposia throughout the year.

Faculty—T. Renae McNair, Assistant Teaching Professor, University College, Penn State Scranton
Professional—Karen B. Sofranko, Director of Academic Services and Retention, University College, Penn State Hazleton
THE PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC INTEGRATION is given to a full-time member of the faculty who has exhibited extraordinary achievement in the integration of teaching, research or creative accomplishment, and service.

Dermot M. Groome, Professor in Dickinson Law, Feldman Distinguished Faculty Scholar, Penn State Dickinson Law

THE PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS, through the gift of a generous donor, recognizes a faculty member who goes beyond his or her responsibilities to engage and encourage student learning and leadership in academic, social and professional settings. Three-fifths of the monetary award go directly to the recipient and two-fifths to the honoree’s department, to be managed by the recipient and used for extending the kinds of activities the award recognizes.

Marissa Nicosia, Associate Professor of Renaissance Literature, Penn State Abington

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM LEADERSHIP AWARD, established in 2002, recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated exemplary leadership benefiting a Penn State undergraduate degree program. The goal of the award is to recognize those individuals who have major responsibilities for the delivery of undergraduate education within a unit and who are providing leadership that has transformed or revitalized the undergraduate program within the unit in some way.

Sharon Huang, Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, College of Information Sciences and Technology, University Park

THE ROSEMARY SCHRAER MENTORING AWARD, established in 1994 by family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Rosemary Schraer, a former associate provost of Penn State, is presented each year to a University employee who exemplifies Schraer’s giving of herself as a mentor and who has voluntarily, over a period of time, helped others recognize and achieve their potential. Consideration is given to employees who have a record of outstanding mentoring service that goes beyond the requirements of their employment duties and responsibilities.

Laura P. Leites, Associate Research Professor of Quantitative Forest Ecology, Department of Ecosystem Science & Management, College of Agricultural Sciences; Equity Leadership Faculty Fellow, Office of Educational Equity, University Park
PRESENTATION OF FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Damon Sims, Vice President for Student Affairs

THE MCKAY DONKIN AWARD was established in 1969 in honor of the late McKay Donkin, who served as vice president for finance and treasurer of the University from 1957 to 1968. The award is presented to a full-time member of the faculty or staff or to a retiree who has contributed to the “economic, physical, mental, or social welfare of the faculty” of the University. The contribution of the nominee should be for duties or services that are above and beyond his or her regularly assigned duties.

Jeffrey S. Bardzell, Associate Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, College of Information Sciences and Technology, University Park

THE AWARD FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE, established in 1970, is presented to individuals whose performance, methods, and achievements exemplify administrative excellence.

Chad A. Long, Director of Student Affairs, University College, Penn State Fayette

THE STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARD, established in 1993, recognizes the outstanding ongoing performance of a staff member who has demonstrated and practiced the philosophy of continuous quality improvement, team spirit, managerial excellence in the performance of assigned duties, and leadership in establishing a quality service orientation, so as to benefit his or her unit and the University.

Megan C. Gilpin, Student Services Associate, University Libraries, University Park

THE SUPPORT STAFF AWARD recognizes the overall high-quality performance of a full-time member of the support staff who has at least five years of active University service in fulfilling the mission of the University and of his/her college or administrative unit. The award recognizes dedicated focus to customer service, commitment to quality improvement, outstanding skills and abilities, teamwork, and professionalism.

Debbie Jozefick, Administrative Support Assistant, College of Health and Human Development, University Park
PRESENTATION OF FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Sara F. Thorndike, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business/Treasurer

THE BARASH AWARD FOR HUMAN SERVICE, created in 1975 by the family of the late Sy Barash, is given to a full-time member of the faculty, staff, or student body of the University Park campus who has, apart from regular duties, contributed most to human causes, public service activities and organizations, or the welfare of fellow humans.

   Renea D. Nichols, Associate Teaching Professor, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, University Park

THE DR. JAMES ROBINSON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AWARD, established in 1988 and renamed in 1998 to honor the late Dr. James Robinson, a Distinguished Alumnus and former Alumni Council member, recognizes a full-time faculty or staff member who, with at least two years of active service, has promoted equal opportunity through affirmative action and/or contributes to enhancing the educational environment of the University through improving cross-cultural understanding. The Penn State Alumni Association sponsors this award.

   Anthony B. Mitchell, Associate Teaching Professor, African American Studies, University College, Penn State Greater Allegheny

THE W. LAMARR KOPP INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is designed to recognize faculty members at Penn State who make extraordinary contributions to the advancement of the international mission of the University. Criteria for the award include leadership and support for international education, service to the international community, and research with a significant international component.

   Elizabeth Ransom, Interim Director of School of International Affairs, Rock Ethics Institute, University Park
PRESENTATION OF GRADUATE FACULTY AWARDS
Kathryn Drager, Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School

THE HOWARD B. PALMER FACULTY MENTORING AWARD, named for the senior associate dean of the Graduate School from 1984 to 1991, recognizes outstanding achievement by a faculty member who has at least five years of active service at Penn State and effectively guides and nurtures the collegial and professional development of junior faculty.

Luis F. Ayala, Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, University Park

THE GRADUATE FACULTY TEACHING AWARD, established in 1992 by the Graduate School, recognizes a faculty member’s outstanding teaching performance and advising of doctoral students.

Frank Ritter, Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, and Psychology, College of Information Sciences and Technology, University Park

GRADUATE SCHOOL ALUMNI SOCIETY GRADUATE PROGRAM CHAIR LEADERSHIP AWARD recognizes a member of the graduate faculty who chairs or has chaired an existing graduate-degree program, for exemplary leadership benefiting students and faculty. The award was established in 2002 by the Graduate School Alumni Society Board.

Chris A. Calkins, Teaching Professor and Executive Director, Master of Health Administration, College of Health and Human Development, University Park
PRESENTATION OF FACULTY SCHOLAR MEDALS
Lora G. Weiss, Senior Vice President for Research

THE FACULTY SCHOLAR MEDAL, established in 1980, recognizes scholarly excellence demonstrated by a single contribution or series of contributions focusing on a coherent theme. The contribution may be original basic research in one of six areas: arts and humanities; entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and economic development; life and health sciences; physical sciences; engineering; or social and behavioral sciences. The attainment for which the medal is given must have occurred during the five years preceding the award.

ENGINEERING
Ralph H. Colby, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Chemical Engineering, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, University Park

ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Jonathan P. Eburne, Professor of Comparative Literature, English, and French & Francophone Studies, College of the Liberal Arts, University Park

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
Homero Gil de Zúñiga, Professor of Media Studies, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, University Park

LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES
Jonathan P. Lynch, Distinguished Professor of Plant Science, College of Agricultural Sciences, University Park

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Carleen F. Maitland, Professor, College of Information Sciences and Technology, University Park

PHYSICAL SCIENCES
Susan B. Sinnott, Professor and Department Head of Materials Science and Engineering and Professor of Chemistry, College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, University Park
PRESENTATION OF FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Tracey Huston, Vice President for Outreach

THE PENN STATE AWARD FOR FACULTY OUTREACH recognizes faculty who have made significant contributions to outreach. This award is presented to a full-time faculty member whose primary responsibilities are teaching, research, and service, and who has positively and substantially affected individuals, organizations, or communities through problem-solving or development, as a result of extending his or her scholarship. This award is endorsed by the Provost and supported by the University Council on Engaged Scholarship and the Faculty Senate Committee on Outreach.

Melanie D. Hetzel-Riggin, Professor of Psychology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Penn State Behrend

THE SHIRLEY HENDRICK AWARD recognizes an academic administrator whose visionary accomplishments have contributed significantly to the success of the University’s efforts to serve adult learners. Candidates for the award are champions of the strategic development and delivery of outreach programs. They encourage a culture of innovation and collaboration, and communicate the importance of outreach. The Commission for Adult Learners administers the Hendrick Award.

Brian H. Cameron, Associate Dean for Professional Graduate Programs and Executive Education, Smeal College of Business, University Park

PENN STATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD recognizes an outstanding engaged scholarship initiative that best exemplifies Penn State’s commitment to the ideal of an engaged institution—an institution that has redesigned its learning, discovery, and engagement functions to become even more involved with its communities through reciprocity and mutual respect among partners. This award is endorsed by the Provost and supported by the University Council on Engaged Scholarship and the Faculty Senate Committee on Outreach.

Peter J. Stempel, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, College of Arts and Architecture, University Park
THE EMERGING FACULTY OUTREACH AWARD, established in 2015, recognizes early-career tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty members whose work has significant potential to advance engaged scholarship through teaching, research, and/or service. Their engaged scholarship work shows significant potential to influence societal issues on local, regional, or national levels. This award is endorsed by the Provost and supported by the University Student Engagement Network and the Faculty Senate Committee on Outreach.

Shaheen Pasha, Assistant Teaching Professor, Journalism Department, Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, University Park

CLOSING REMARKS

President Barron