



University of Houston
DOWNTOWN

*Faculty
Awards*

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

2:30 - 4 p.m.

Welcome

Faculty Senate President-Elect – Dr. Edmund Cueva

Remarks from UHD President

Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D.

Senate Report

Faculty Senate President — Dr. Ronald Beebe

Faculty Awards

Dr. Yuanyuan (Connie) Kang, Ph.D. — Chair

Faculty Awards Committee

Faculty Development Leave Awards

Dr. Natalya Matveeva — Chair

Funded Faculty Leave Awards Committee

Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Clete Snell — Chair

Distinguished Faculty Awards Committee

Recognition of Faculty Years of Service
Provost & SVP Academic and Student Affairs

Provost & SVP Academic and Student Affairs

Dr. Eric Carl Link

Outstanding Adjunct

Elizabeth Cantalamessa

Philosophy

Alia Jasim

Geology

Elias Keedy

Business

Rhonda Scherer

Physical Education

Outstanding Lecturer

Albert DeJesus

Spanish

Angela Goins

Social Work

Nancy Lopez

History

Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity

Edmund Cueva

Humanities

Diane Miller

Urban Ed

Whitney Botsford Morgan

Business

Steve Zhou

Business

Excellence in Service

Michael Cavanaugh

Criminal Justice

Michael Duncan

English

Natalia Matveeva

Communication Studies

Excellence in Teaching

Rob Austin Mckee

Business

Arash Rahmatian

Engineering

Adriana Visbal

Biology

Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Ronald Beebe

Urban Education

Dr. Qing (Ray) Cao

General Business, Marketing, & Supply Chain

Dr. Ryan Pepper

Mathematics & Statistics

Faculty Development Leave Awards

Stephanie Babb, Associate Professor of Psychology

Department of Social Sciences:

I am writing an authored book entitled, *Meeting the Needs of Nontraditional Students*. Despite their growing population in universities, and the increased challenges they face in comparison to traditional students, scientific literature examining how to best meet the needs of nontraditional students is limited, and most studies focus on best practices for only one aspect of the challenges this population faces. Because of this, there is a lack of knowledge about nontraditional students, which has led to lower enrollment rates and high attrition rates. This population should no longer be considered “nontraditional,” nor a shifting population; the numbers are here, and we must begin meeting these students’ needs now. This means a shift in our pedagogical and supportive approaches so that we can better understand these students’ needs, and therefore provide them with the necessary support in order to not only retain them, but also ensure their academic success, especially during this worldwide health and financial crisis. The purpose of this faculty-funded leave is to advance our knowledge of the challenges nontraditional students face, plus better understand not only their weaknesses but their strengths, so we can improve our support of them in their educational goals.

Ivan Gan, Assistant Professor of Communication

Department of Arts & Communication:

While researchers have explained how various trends have delayed retirement among older nurses, COVID-19 has abruptly reshaped contemporary understanding of older nurses’ retirement decision-making. This development has implications for nurses’ safety and the mentoring of future nurses. Health care facilities that retain experienced nurses are not only creating direct mentoring opportunities for experienced nurses to share tacit knowledge with future generations of nurses, but they are also ensuring that patients receive the best possible nursing care because clinical experience matters at the bedside. I will investigate factors that influence nurses’ retirement decision making and explore strategies to support older bedside nurses.

Michael Lemke, Assistant Professor of Health & Behavioral Studies

Department of Social Sciences:

The objective of this activity will be to publish a sole authored book titled “Population Safety Science” that lays the groundwork for a new academic field. This volume will delineate this novel field and will serve as a proof-of-concept and programmatic primer for innovative research and prevention to curb population-level injury outcomes and achieve safety equity across diverse demographics. The expected disciplinary impacts of the proposed activity are three-fold: 1) to stimulate the creation of a new academic field; 2) to bridge the fields of safety science, population health, and complex systems science; and 3) to innovate population-level safety research and prevention.

The proposed book will be most useful to those who have skills and knowledge to conduct research but struggle in converting their research into respectable journal publication material. Having conducted several workshops in many universities all over the world on the subject, I have learned that many scholars make costly mistakes. I expect this guide to fill in this gap and make publishing a painless and fun activity for high-potential scholars.

Bonnie Lucero, Associate Professor of History

Department of History, Humanities & Languages:

During the period of faculty development leave, I will complete 3 online courses focused on social justice and the law to gain the foundation necessary to undertake my fourth academic monograph, a study of the intersections of Latino Studies and the Law. This project addresses a major gap in scholarly and pedagogical approaches to Latino Studies. Legal activism has been absolutely central to civil rights gains for historically marginalized groups of all backgrounds, including Latinos.

Interdisciplinary academic fields such as Critical Race Studies and Women of Color Feminisms have reflected the historic significance of legal activism through research and teaching that focuses on the law as a structure of inequality and as a potential mechanism for social justice. However, the recognition of the law and legal studies has much less pronounced in Latino Studies scholarship and teaching. By the end of the period of leave, I will write and submit a book proposal to a reputable academic publisher. Ultimately, I will apply this professional development to chart out new paths for my research in Latino Studies as well as developing a Legal Studies track for the Latino Studies degree currently in development.

Daniel Peña, Assistant Professor of English

Department of English:

Bengal City Airlines is a novel about a former Syrian fighter pilot disaffected and displaced by the Arab spring and subsequent war within Syria circa 2017. The protagonist, Almoodi Al Numan, is of Mexican-Druze origin and after fleeing from the Assad regime (via Israel), finds himself living as a refugee: first in Berlin (housed in temporary refugee camp at Tempelhof airport) and subsequently in his mother's native Mexico City where he founds a Museum of Death Treasures that collects artifacts from people who have been victims of violent crimes. After having lost his wife and child in Syria, Al Numan becomes obsessed with death as the single story that links everyone.

Leena Thacker-Kumar, Professor of Political Science

Department of Social Sciences:

The FFL will complement my fellowship from the Council of Foreign Relations which involves working at a U.S. government agency or International Organization on peace and security issues. I will be working in the Countering Violent Extremism Section of the United States Agency on International Development. This proposed work builds upon my area of research on global governance frameworks, challenges of implementing global regime of rules and laws, and how countries use soft power to address the implementation challenges in the context of counteracting radicalization and terrorism.

This opportunity will enable me to bridge the gap between research and practice, fuel my future research, and enrich the curriculum to engage my students in a much deeper and insightful way so that they are more active participants in the global political process.

Recognition of Faculty Years of Service

20 Years

- Dr. Anita Chadha**, Associate Professor – Social Sciences
Dr. Hong Lin, Professor – Computer Science & Engineering Technology
Dr. Lisa D. Morano, Professor – Natural Sciences
Dr. David Beck Ryden, Professor – History, Humanities & Languages
Dr. Hsiao-Ming Wang, Professor – Criminal Justice

25 Years

- Dr. José E. Alvarez**, Professor – History, Humanities & Languages
Dr. Barbara Belbot, Professor – Criminal Justice
Dr. Maria P. Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor – Urban Education
Mr. Benny John, Lecturer – Mathematics & Statistics
Dr. Karen C. Kaser, Lecturer – Applied Administration
Dr. Kurt Stanberry, Professor – General Business, Marketing & Supply Chain
Dr. M. Nell Sullivan, Professor – English

30 Years

- Ms. Anna Rosenthal-Simmons**, Lecturer – Mathematics & Statistics
Mr. Robert G. Wilson, Lecturer – Arts & Communication

35 Years

- Ms. Sangeeta Gad**, Lecturer – Mathematics & Statistics
Dr. Rolando Pelaez, Professor – Finance & Management Information Systems

40 Years

- Dr. Shohreh S. Hashemi**, Associate Professor – Finance
& Management Information Systems



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