

Welcome to the 2026



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE.

Faculty Awards Ceremony
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 2:30 – 4 p.m.

WELCOME

Dr. Ashleigh Petts
Ceremony Emcee

OPENING REMARKS FROM UHD PRESIDENT

Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D.
UHD President

FACULTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Paul Mandell
Faculty Council Presiding Officer

FACULTY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Presented by Dr. Cheryl Dowie
Chair

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT

Presented by Carlos Cantu
2025 Outstanding Adjunct Award Winner

2026 Faculty Awards

OUTSTANDING ADJUCT FINALISTS

Fernell Jimenez-Pabon

History, Humanities, and Languages

Ruena Wood

Finance, Information Systems, Economics and Risk Management

Zoe Smith

Management

OUTSTANDING LECTURER/CLINICAL FACULTY

Presented by Vaishali Chaubal

2025 Outstanding Lecturer Award Winner

OUTSTANDING LECTURER/CLINICAL FACULTY FINALISTS

Bridget Mueller

Arts and Communication

Michael Pettiette

Management

Shawn Aykroyd

Urban Education

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Presented by Ashwini Tiwari

2025 Excellence in Scholarly and Creative Activity Award Winner

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE ACTIVITY FINALISTS

Godwin Agboka

English

Kit Cho

Psychology

Shahnaz Savani

Criminal Justice and Social Work

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Presented by Krista Gehring

2025 Excellence in Service Award Winner

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE FINALISTS

Dana Smith

Criminal Justice and Social Work

Kit Cho

Psychology

Timothy Redl

Mathematics and Statistics

2026 Faculty Awards

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Presented by John Rountree
2025 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING FINALISTS

Andrew Pavelich

History, Humanities, and languages

Ayden Adler

Arts and Communication

Chris Zhang

Management

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Judith Quander, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs and Development

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Dr. Angela Goins

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Social Work

Dr. Hanjin Mao

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences

Dr. Wei Wei

Assistant Professor of Finance, Information Systems,
Economics, and Risk Management

Dr. Emre Yilmaz

Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

Dr. Mary Beth Balderas

Assistant Professor of Urban Education

Dr. Vaishali Chaubal

Senior Lecturer of Natural Sciences

Dr. Zach Dailey

Assistant Professor of Arts and Communication

Dr. Wenlong Gong

Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Mahmud Hasan

Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

Dr. Amanda Lake Heath

Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Katharine Jager

Professor of English

Dr. Meghan Minard

Senior Lecturer of Natural Sciences

Dr. Jillian O'Connor

Assistant Professor of Psychology

2026 Faculty Awards

Dr. Claude Rubinson

Professor of Social Sciences

Dr. Dana Smith

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Social Work

Dr. Nell Sullivan

Professor of English

Dr. Edwin Tecarro

Associate Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Vassilios Tzouanas

Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

Dr. Marvin Williams

Professor of Accounting and International Business

Dr. Kevin Buckler

Professor of Criminal Justice and Social Work

Dr. Song Ge

Associate Professor of Natural Sciences

Dr. Susan Henney

Professor of Social Sciences

Dr. Sagarika Kosaraju

Assistant Professor of Urban Education

Dr. Zahir Latheef

Associate Professor of Management

Dr. Zeenat Mitha

Senior Lecturer of Arts and Communication

Dr. Jean Nganou

Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Sanghamitra Saha

Senior Lecturer of Natural Sciences

Dr. Michelle Silvers

Assistant Professor of Urban Education

Dr. Peter Soland

Assistant Professor of History, Humanities and Languages

Dr. Ayden Adler

Associate Professor of Arts and Communication

Dr. Carolyn Gascoigne

Professor of History, Humanities and Languages

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Jackson

Professor of English

Dr. Su Jiang

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Natalya Matveeva

Professor of Arts and Communication

Dr. Subash Pakhrin

Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

Dr. Julie Wilson

Senior Lecturer of Psychology

2026 Faculty Awards

ORCA AWARDS

Judith Quander, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs and Development

ORGANIZED RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AWARDS

Dr. Zach Dailey

Assistant Professor of Arts and Communication

Dr. Lisa Jennings

Assistant Professor of English

Dr. Hanjin Mao

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences

Dr. Nell Sullivan

Professor of English

Dr. Joseph Westfall

Professor of History, Humanities and Languages

Dr. Sagarika Kosaraju

Assistant Professor of Urban Education

Dr. Yajaira Ceciliano

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences

Dr. Song Ge

Associate Professor of Natural Sciences

Dr. Amanda Lake Heath

Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Jackson

Professor of English

Dr. Katherine Jager

Professor of English

Dr. Jillian O'Connor

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Roseanna (Anna) Crowell

Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences

Dr. Kristin Anderson

Professor of Psychology

Dr. Kit Cho

Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Krista Gehring

Professor of Criminal Justice and Social Work

Dr. Su Jiang

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Katrina Rufino

Professor of Psychology

Dr. Joe Sample

Associate Professor of English

2026 Faculty Awards

Dr. Yun Wan

Associate Professor of Finance, Information Systems,
Economics, and Risk Management

Dr. Maria Benavides

Professor of Natural Sciences

Dr. Subash Pakhrin

Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

Prof. Natacha Poggio

Associate Professor of Arts and Communication

Dr. Rupak Rauniar

Professor of General Business, Marketing and
Supply Chain Management

Dr. Kara Winkler

Assistant Professor of Arts and Communication

Dr. Lanyi Zhang

Assistant Professor of Accounting and International Business

Dr. Stephanie Coleman

Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Anthony Foster

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Dr. Shovna Tripathy

Assistant Professor of Management

Dr. Christopher Baiyegunhi

Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences

Dr. Azadeh Izadi

Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

UNIVERSITY FUNDED FACULTY LEAVE RECIPIENTS

Dr. Kevin Buckler

Professor of Criminal Justice and Social Work

Dr. Zishang (Cathy) Liu

Professor of Accounting and International Business

Prof. Natacha Poggio

Associate Professor of Arts and Communication

Dr. Arash Rahmatian

Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Technology

Dr. Nell Sullivan

Professor of English

RECOGNITION OF FACULTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Deborah Bordelon, Ph.D.

UHD Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

5 years

Aimee Bichler

Amanda Kennedy

2026 Faculty Awards

Ashleigh Petts
Ayden Adler
Emre Yilmaz
Fei Yang
Joseph Kamto
Leslie Sirrianni
Liza Lane
Shuaifu Lin
Stalina Villarreal
Zafor Ahmed

10 years

Benjamin Soibam
Candice Shivers
David Maldonado
Esther Castro
Julio Canedo Soto
Kevin Buckler
Kit Cho
Brad Cannaday
Michael Dimmick
Michael Pettiette
Nathan Neale
Nina Das
Ray Cao
Stephen Miller
Vaishali Chaubal
Vishakha Shembeker
Xinxin Hu
Zahir Latheef

15 years

Benjamin Lourence
Charles French
Claude Rubinson
Godwin Agboka
Ha Nguyen
Jillian Hill
John Dillard
Joseph Sample
Krista Gehring
Melissa Raymundo
Nisreen Elayegh
Paul Mandell
Robin Jose
Stephen White
Travis Crone
Vassilios Tzouanas
Yingchun Wang
Yuan Yuan Kang
Zeenat Mitha

2026 Faculty Awards

20 years

Ayorinde Idowu
Cletus Snell
Cynthia Stewart
David Branham
Jason Caro
Jeffrey Jackson
Jerry Johnson
Joanna Kaftan
Joseph Westfall
Judith Harris
Kulwant Singh
Maria Benavides
Mian Jiang
Paul Fortunato
Paul Kintzele
Prakash Deo
Ryan Pepper
Susan Henney
Timothy Redl
Zehai Zhou

25 Years

Mark Cervenka

35 Years

Anisul Islam
Nell Sullivan
Patrick Williams
Shishen Xie
Vien Nguyen

CLOSING

Dr. Ashleigh Petts
Ceremony Emcee