

2021  
*Wilson Awards  
Presentation  
Virtual Celebration*

Sunday, April 11, 2021



**PennState**  
College of Earth  
and Mineral Sciences

*Celebrating*

**125**  
**YEARS**

1896 - 2021

# 2021 Wilson Awards Presentation



*The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences'  
annual celebration of accomplishments*

**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**6:30 p.m. Reception**

(Zoom breakout rooms)

**7 p.m. Virtual Awards Presentation**

# *Matthew J. Wilson, Jr. & Anne Coghlan Wilson*

Through their bequests, Matthew and Anne Wilson are the major benefactors of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS). In the 1950s, Matthew Wilson inherited a stock portfolio that provided the basis for the funds he generously gave to the then-named School of Mineral Industries. His giving started in 1957 with a modest scholarship endowment and was later increased with additional gifts. Over the years the endowments blossomed into a substantial fund that today provides the college with support for its well-known student loan program and a number of faculty and student awards and scholarships. The fund also supports the annual Wilson Awards Banquet.

Matthew Wilson was born in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Penn State in 1918 with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. He attended the University of Colorado, where he received master's degrees in geology and chemistry and met his wife, Anne, a biochemist. After graduating, he started working as a chemist for the Atlantic Refining Company in Philadelphia and later moved to Holland, Michigan, where he developed a career in sales starting first with the U.S. Industrial Company, then the Karr Spring Company, and later with the Spring Air Company. He served as the Washington representative for Spring Air's industrial and military sales for many years; he also served on the company's board of directors. In retirement, the Wilsons lived in Michigan but moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, shortly before Matthew died in 1963.

Throughout the next twenty years Anne Wilson increased the family endowments and took an active interest in EMS students and faculty. When she died in 1983, it was said of her:

*“Anne believed in giving. Her dream to become a doctor was never realized so she wanted the dreams of others to come true. She felt it was important that the University hold on to its best teachers. Awards were a wonderful way to do so.”*

# College-level Student Awards

## *Jay M. and Katherine DeFinis Award for Outstanding Student Leadership*

**Samantha Staskiewicz**, Meteorology and Atmospheric  
Science

**Christopher Long**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
and Geography

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## *Ellen Steidle Achievement Award*

Senior: **Christopher Long**, Meteorology and Atmospheric  
Science and Geography

Junior: **Sean Melanson**, Meteorology and Atmospheric  
Science

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## *Dean Edward Steidle Memorial Scholar Award*

**Xiaoyu Zou**, Geosciences

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## *GEMS Diamond Award*

**Christopher Long**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science  
and Geography

Honorable Mention: **Kayla McCauley**, Meteorology and  
Atmospheric Science

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## *Student Marshal*

**Mingsong Chen**, B.S. Energy Business and Finance and  
Earth Sciences, Minor in Statistics

*Mingsong, a Schreyer Scholar, will graduate Summa Cum Laude  
with a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA.*

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## *Engineering Honor Marshal*

**Madeline Vailhe**, B.S. Materials Science and Engineering,  
Minor in Engineering Mechanics

*Madeline, a Schreyer Scholar, will graduate Summa Cum Laude  
with a 3.98 cumulative GPA.*

# *EMSAGE Laureates*

*The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences Academy for Global Experience (EMSAGE) is the college's signature undergraduate recognition program. Select students are recognized with the distinctive designation of EMSAGE Laureate.*

## **Fall 2020 EMSAGE Laureates**

- **Amanda Byrd**, Geography
- **Natalie Cummings**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Christian Erikson**, Earth Sciences
- **Salix Iverson**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Kelsey Jenkins**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Grace Kimzey**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Cove Klaas-Bentley**, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- **Grant LaChat**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Christopher Long**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Natalie Mamrol**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Kayla McCauley**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Elizabeth McIntyre**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Jacob Morse**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Donovan Moses**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Theresa Novak**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Talia Potochny**, Geography
- **Harman Singh**, Geography
- **Mason Taylor**, Energy and Sustainability Policy
- **Sophie Tessier**, Geography
- **Isabella Urbina**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Madeline Vailhe**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Nathaniel Vislosky**, Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- **Kaylen Woods**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

## **Spring 2021 EMSAGE Laureates**

- **Al Reem Alshimmari**, Geosciences
- **Robin Carbaugh**, Geosciences
- **Alexandra Hatfield**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Mona Hill**, Energy and Sustainability Policy
- **Shane Leister**, Geography
- **Yizheng Liu**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Rachel Martin**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Colton Milcarek**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Megan Penrod**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Jenna Pulice**, Geography
- **Stanley Swithers**, Energy and Sustainability Policy

## *Promotion and Tenure*

**Jeremy Gernand**, Associate Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering

**Hojong Kim**, Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

**Fritz Kessler**, Teaching Professor, Geography

**Chiara Lo Prete**, Associate Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering

**Joshua Robinson**, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

**William Syrett**, Associate Teaching Professor, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

**Gregory Thomas**, Associate Teaching Professor, Geography

**Jian-Jun Wang**, Associate Research Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

**Christelle Wauthier**, Associate Professor, Geosciences



## *Retirements*

**John Hellmann**, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Education and Research Emeritus

**Mark Klima**, Associate Professor, Energy and Mineral Engineering

**David Pollard**, Research Professor Emeritus, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute

**Chunshan Song**, Distinguished Professor of Fuel Science Emeritus and Director, EMS Energy Institute

**Todd Sowers**, Research Professor Emeritus, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute



## *25-Year Service Awards*

**Ralph Colby**, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

**April Millet**, Assistant Teaching Professor, John A. Dutton e-Education Institute

# *Gladys Snyder Junior Faculty Grants*



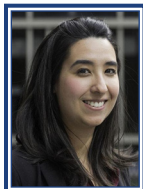
**Allison Baczynski**, Assistant Research Professor,  
Geosciences

**“Reinterpreting landscape change in the Denver Basin: geochemical evidence for the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum”**



**Kevin Bowley**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Meteorology  
and Atmospheric Science

**“Into the Simulator: Development of the next generation community weather forecasting training tool for Penn State students and beyond”**



**Maria Higgins**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Materials  
Science and Engineering

**“Gamma-ray induced degradation of Polyethylene terephthalate. Radiation therapy for water resources”**



**John Hooker**, Assistant Teaching Professor, Geosciences

**“Geochemical tracers of fluid flow through fractures in the Appalachian basin: A field laboratory for student-led research in Penn State's backyard”**



**Miquela Ingalls**, Assistant Professor, Geosciences

**“Creation of teaching collections and an accompanying virtual field trip to support the development of a sedimentology and stratigraphy course”**



**Rob Lydick**, Researcher and On-Air Meteorologist,  
Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

**“Enhancing Student Experiences in Weather Communications”**



**André J. van der Vlies**, Assistant Research Professor,  
Materials Science and Engineering

**“Elucidating the role of chemical structure on charge transport in conducting polymers”**

*Postdoctoral Excellence in Research  
Award*



**Joshua Garber**  
Postdoctoral Scholar,  
Geosciences



**Yang Liu**  
Postdoctoral Scholar,  
Materials Science and  
Engineering



*George H. K. Schenck  
Teaching Assistant Award*



**Julia Carr**  
Graduate Teaching Assistant,  
Geosciences

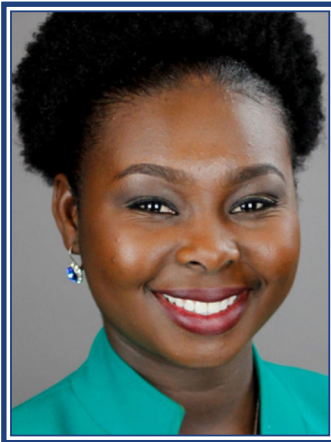




*Catherine Lyons Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion  
Undergraduate Student  
Award*

**Kayla McCauley**

Meteorology and Atmospheric  
Science



*Catherine Lyons Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion  
Graduate Student Award*

**Ama Agyapong**

Materials Science and Engineering



*Charles Hosler Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion  
Faculty Award*

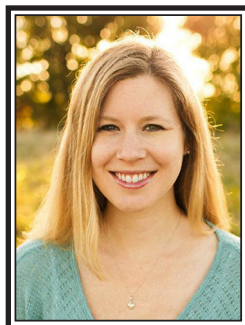
**Luis Ayala**

John and Willie Leone Family  
Department of Energy and Mineral  
Engineering

*G. Montgomery and Marion Mitchell  
Award for Innovative Teaching*



**Jennifer Babb**



**Megan Kohler**



**April Millet**



**Jane Sutterlin**



**Maria Wherley**



**Mark Wherley**

All Learning Designers in the  
John A. Dutton e-Education Institute

## *Wilson Award for Outstanding Service*



**Douglas  
Miller**

Research Professor,  
Geography  
and Earth and  
Environmental  
Systems Institute



**Roman  
Engel-Herbert**

Associate Professor,  
Materials Science  
and Engineering



**Jon-Paul  
Maria**

Professor,  
Materials Science  
and Engineering



## *Faculty Advising Award*



**Feineman, Maureen**

Associate Research Professor  
& Associate Head for  
Undergraduate Programs,  
Geosciences



**Eugene Morgan**

Assistant Teaching Professor  
& Associate Head for  
Undergraduate Education,  
EME

## *Faculty Mentoring Award*



**Luis Ayala**

Professor of Petroleum and  
Natural Gas Engineering  
& William A. Fustos Family  
Professor



**Guido Cervone**

Professor of Geography &  
Associate Director, Institute  
for Computational and Data  
Sciences



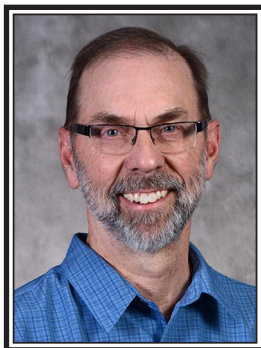
**Kenneth Davis**

Professor of Atmospheric and  
Climate Science



**Suzanne Mohney**

Professor of Materials Science  
and Engineering



**Mark Patzkowsky**

Professor of  
Geosciences &  
Associate Head for  
Graduate Programs  
and Research

*Wilson Award for  
Excellence in  
Teaching*

**Ismaila Dabo**

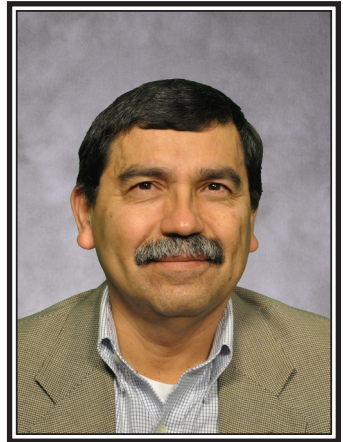
Associate Professor of Materials  
Science and Engineering and  
Corning Faculty Fellow in Ceramic  
Science and Engineering



*John T. Ryan, Jr.  
Faculty Fellow*

**José Fuentes**

Professor of Meteorology



*Wilson Award for  
Excellence in  
Research*

**Sukyong Lee**

Professor of Meteorology



*E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller*  
*Faculty Fellow*



**Hamid Emami-Meybodi**

Assistant Professor of Energy and  
Mineral Engineering

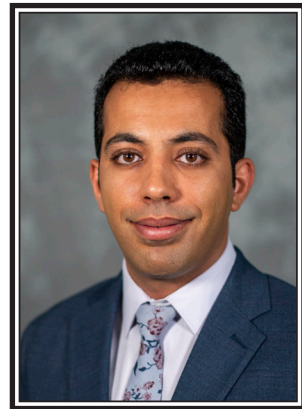
**“Transport Behavior of Condensed  
Fluids in Ultratight Porous Media:  
Evidence for Mechanisms Other  
Than Advection”**

*George H. Deike, Jr. Research Grant*



**Feifei Shi**

Assistant Professor of Energy  
Engineering & Virginia S. and  
Philip L. Walker Faculty Fellow



**Mohammad Rezaee**

Assistant Professor of Mining  
Engineering & Thomas V. and  
Jean C. Falkie Mining Engineering  
Faculty Fellow

**“Unlocking Unconventional Lithium Resources through  
Development of Efficient, Low-cost, and Environmentally Benign  
Extraction Processes and Production of Lithium Battery Products”**

## *Wilson Research Initiation Grant*



**Wesley Reinhart**

Assistant Professor of Materials Science  
and Engineering

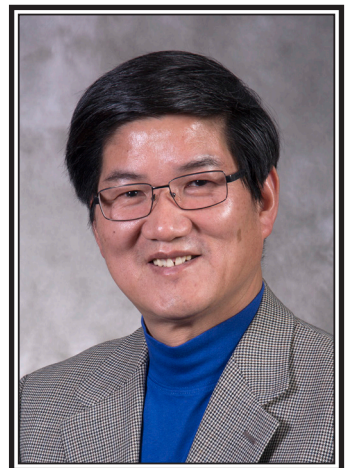
**“Inverse design of hierarchical  
structures in a model copolymer”**



## *Paul F. Robertson Award for EMS Research Breakthrough of the Year*

**Long-Qing Chen**

Donald W. Hamer Professor of  
Materials Science and Engineering,  
Professor of Engineering Science  
and Mechanics, and Professor of  
Mathematics



*Charles L. Hosler  
Alumni Scholar Medal*



**Virginia Ciminelli**

Professor in the Department  
of Metallurgical and Materials  
Engineering, Federal University of  
Minas Gerais, Brazil



*Congratulations*  
*to all of our awardees!*





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College of Earth  
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1896 – 2021

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