

Points of Pride

Colleagues,

The Office of Research Administration recently hosted its inaugural Research, Innovation and Engagement Town Hall, during which seven outstanding faculty scholars and one department were recognized for their achievements.

I believe that something Dr. David Stone, Associate Vice President for Research, said about the honorees truly says it all.

"These are world class researchers and Oakland is very fortunate to have them on board."

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

FRANK GIBLIN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Frank Giblin, professor of biomedical sciences and Director of the Eye Research Institute, not only received OU's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for research, but also earned the distinction of it being named in his honor.

Throughout his career, Dr. Giblin has secured a total of \$12,605,000 in grant funding and maintained a remarkable 39-year track record of continuous National Institutes of Health grant funding.

He has published more than 100 scholarly articles and, commendably, he has trained 96 undergraduate and 19 postdoc researchers.

Reacting to being named for this honor, Dr. Giblin said, "I don't think I could have had this type of successful research career at any other institution. I hope that the award acts as an incentive for others to stay at OU for long-term success."

What an incredible gentleman and scholar!



PRESIDENT ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ INNOVATION AWARD



The first winner of this award – which celebrates invention, innovation and commercialization – is **Dr. Xiangqun Zeng**, professor of chemistry.

She has had seven patents issued for various sensors used in analytical chemistry and biomedical research, and they account for the majority of the 10 patents all of Oakland University has received over the last five years. What's more, she has another seven patents pending!

Dr. Zeng also won this year's *Most Active Grant Seeker Award*. Where many researchers are challenged to submit two grant proposals in a single year, in 2016-17 she submitted nine!

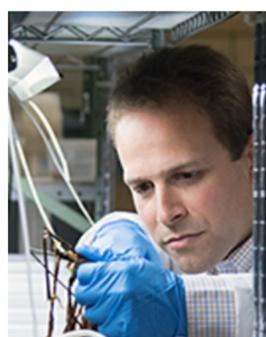
Finally, it is certainly worth noting that this accomplished scholar and investigator has trained more than 80 individuals in her lab over the past 16 years. Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Zeng!

RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Thomas Raffel, assistant professor of biological sciences, won this new award recognizing the largest amount of grant funding secured during a single fiscal year.

Last year, he received a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award totaling \$964,898, which will help him build a research enterprise exploring how temperature changes affect parasitism in amphibians.

This award is the NSF's most prestigious honor granted to early-career faculty who have conducted innovative scientific and technological research, as well as engaged in community service demonstrating scientific leadership, education and outreach. Kudos, Dr. Raffel!



MOST RESEARCH ACTIVE AWARD



This award is presented to the faculty member with the highest number of new grants secured during a single fiscal year. Two OU researchers shared the inaugural honors after receiving three grants in 2016-17.

Dr. Christina Papadimitriou, associate professor of interdisciplinary health sciences, is investigating interventions to improve healthcare access for persons with physical disabilities.



Dr. Andrei Slavin, distinguished professor of physics, specializes in magnetic materials and systems.

Compliments and congratulations to you both!

ADDITIONAL HONOREES

I would also like to extend congratulations to the **Biological Sciences Department** for winning the *Outstanding Research Department Award*; **Dr. Randal Westrick**, assistant professor of biological sciences, for winning the *Outstanding Junior Investigator Award*; and **Dr. Scott Pickett**, associate professor of psychology; for winning the *Best Team Player Award* for co-principal investigators.

My appreciation and best wishes for continued success go out to all of Oakland's researchers and scholars. You are bringing heightened recognition and distinction to our young and ambitious academic community!

Is there a point of pride you feel is worth sharing with the campus community?

If so, please [submit your idea](#) for consideration.

If you are interested in exploring past editions of this newsletter,

we invite you to visit the [Points of Pride archive page](#).

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