

Claudia Keelan, Creative Activity Award

Claudia Keelan is the author of six books of poetry including *Refinery* (Cleveland State University Poetry Prize), *The Secularist* (University of Georgia Press), *Utopic*, (Alice James Books), and *Missing Her* from New Issues Press (2009), which received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*. Critic Harold Bloom, in the preface to *The Body Electric*, *The American Poetry Review's Best Poetry* wrote: "Claudia Keelan, new to me, is very welcome...she is endlessly enigmatic, again almost always what one hopes for in poems." Of *Utopic*, the late poet Robert Creeley wrote: "This profoundly moving book is fact of a consummate skill and the human possibilities it works to realize and to honor. In these poems Claudia Keelan keeps the faith for us all." Born in California, Keelan has taught in universities in Iowa, Boston, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Colorado. Since 1996, she has been at the University of Nevada, where she is Professor of English and Creative at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and editor of the literary journal *Interim* (www.interimmag.org.) Her honors include the Jerome Shestack prize from *The American Poetry Review*, the Beatrice Hawley award from Alice James Books, a Silver Pen award from the Library of Nevada, and grants from the Kentucky Foundation for Women and the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation. Under the auspices of *Interim*, she is partner to www.lyrikline.org, and online poetry archive founded in Berlin, whose mission is to serve poetry through translation. She lives in Las Vegas.

Ursula Carlson, Teaching Award Community College

Professor Ursula Carlson is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Iowa. She received a PhD. from the University of Detroit. She began her career at Western Nevada as a part-time instructor. She has been a full-time teacher at the college since 1993.

Dr. Carlson's art of teaching extends beyond the classroom. She is a published poet, a regular contributor to the **Nevada Appeal**, and the co-author of the recently published **Trails of Historic New Mexico: Routes Used By Indian, Spanish and American Travelers through 1886**. Her career as a working writer gives her a unique perspective for mentoring and advising students.

Dr. Carlson is held in high regard by students and colleagues. She has served on many college committees and community boards. Quoting a colleague and a student, "She always has something new. She is knowledgeable. For any imaginable situation, she can suggest a book. She is scholarly, intellectual, and very well grounded in her subject matter."

Professor Carlson sets an extremely high standard for her students and an equally high standard for herself. She stands for integrity, shared governance, and student success.

We congratulate Dr. Ursula Carlson as the 2010 recipient of the Regents Community College Teaching Award.

Dr. David Ake, Teaching Award University, State College and DRI

David Ake received his Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of California, Los Angeles, a Master of Arts in Ethnomusicology from UCLA, a Master of Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Miami. He joined the University of Nevada, Reno in 1999.

Dr. Ake is known throughout the university community as an excellent teacher with an astounding depth of knowledge. His lectures are described as engaging and electrifying, and the discussions in his classes, thought provoking and wide ranging. His peers note that his students often comment on the many ways he has changed their lives through his mentorship and teaching. In 2009, Dr. Ake received the University's highest award for excellence in teaching, the F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher Award.

In addition to his teaching activities, Dr. Ake is known as an expert writer, composer and performer. His book *Jazz Cultures* was released in 2002, and his articles have appeared in publications including *Jazz Perspectives* and the *Cambridge Companion to Jazz*. As pianist and composer, Dr. Ake's recordings include *In Between*, his first solo CD, and *Once and Again*, the latest release from The Collective. He has also played with such outstanding musicians as Ravi Coltrane, Charlie Haden, James Newton and Bud Shank. In addition to his musical performances, he has several conference papers and invited lectures to his credit.

Janet Reiber, Academic Advisor Award, Undergraduate

Ms. Janet Reiber has served as the Director of the Advising Center in the College of Sciences at UNLV since 2002. She holds a B.S. in Biology from George Mason University and a Master of Arts in Sciences from UNLV. At the time she became director she was the only advisor for the over 900 students in the college. Under her leadership, the center has expanded with two more academic advisors, one support staff, two student employees, and a group of Peer Advisors to serve the now almost 1800 students in the College of Sciences. She sees students who have serious or emergency situations on a walk-in basis and advises all new students to the college via the online Virtual Advising system. Janet has a passion for using technology where it is appropriate as she understands that the entering college student of today has an expectation of this kind of interface. However, she also promotes and encourages the philosophy of developmental advising where advisors address the entire life experience of the student. Advising the student as a whole person includes getting to know them, the issues they face, and being able to assist them or refer them to the appropriate assistive resources. One student shared that through Ms. Reiber's guidance she was able to make informed decisions throughout her undergraduate degree, reviewing not only the next semester but future semesters and how courses should be taken with regard to workload, complementary learning, and preparation for graduate school. The student also shared that she was a competitive applicant to graduate school as well as for a scholarship from the U.S. Navy that she might otherwise not have known about but for Ms. Reiber's care and engagement with her. Ms. Reiber has continuously worked to improve communication with advisees, initiating efforts like mandatory advising, probationary contracts, and personalized registration services for at-risk students to name a few. Dr. Wanda Taylor, Dean of the College of Sciences, attributes the 10 point increase in retention of full-time first-time freshman between the freshman and sophomore years between 2005 and 2007 to these efforts. The University-wide committee of faculty, professional staff, and students were unanimous in their selection of Ms. Janet Reiber for this well-deserved award.

Jamie T. Anderson, Academic Advisor Award, Graduate

Jamie Anderson received an M.S. in Nursing from UNR in 1991, an M.A. in Health Sciences in 1978 from San Jose State University and a B.S.N. from the University of Missouri, Saint Louis in 1972. She has been advising and serving the students of the University of Nevada School of Medicine for the past 21 years.

Her role at UNSOM allows Ms. Anderson to work in two areas that she loves—student clinical rotations in rural areas of the state and patient care courses that incorporate community physicians to help teach students. Ms. Anderson works closely with students during each of their four years to assist them with career options, sequencing of educational experiences and placement with a community physicians in clinical environments throughout the state. In addition, she oversees seven courses in the School of Medicine curriculum requiring her to work extensively with medical students, advising and guiding them through their science and clinical courses.

Numerous students who benefitted from Ms. Anderson's counsel and advice attest to her being there for them every step of the way in their medical education. They speak of bumps along the way she helped with, experiences that she advised them to take that they are glad they did and her genuine desire to help them succeed. This tireless work has been recognized several times over the years. She received recognition awards for her service to the students and faculty of UNSOM 11 years in a row. In addition, she received Nevada Business Journal's Health Care Heroes Educator award in 2007.

Cyndi Jakus, Academic Advisor Award, TMCC

Believing that dreams do come true, Cyndi Jakus is living hers. As an Academic Advisor at Truckee Meadows Community College, she encourages students to follow their own dreams wholeheartedly until theirs, too, come true.

Cyndi instills her passion for education in the students that she meets by helping them to understand the academic system, teaching them how to plan and follow their own paths to success, and providing overall comprehensive guidance and support.

Drawing on 10 years of experience in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), Cyndi's primary focus is on the academic advisement of the international student and multilingual immigrant populations.

Cyndi has served the local area since 2001, working at both TMCC and UNR. Prior to this, Cyndi began her outreach to the community by teaching English to migrant farm workers in Illinois. She then taught ESL in Dallas, Texas at both the community college and at the University of North Texas.

Cyndi holds an M.A. in Linguistics from the University of North Texas and a B.A. in Spanish from Bradley University, and she is delighted to be working in an environment where she can support students in the realization of their dreams!

Dr. Manoranjan Misra, Researcher Award Nomination

Dr. Manoranjan Misra's (Professor Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno) research has been recognized internationally, as well as nationally and has certainly brought distinction to Nevada and the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Misra has published 183 technical papers in the areas of materials, nanotechnology, and environmental and mineral process engineering. He has had ten patents published and another 12 are pending. He has secured over \$25 million dollars in grant funding. Twenty-four graduate students completed master's theses with him as their major advisor and another nine completed doctoral degrees under his tutelage. Dr. Misra's accomplishments have been previously recognized by his peers and others, as he was named the UNR Outstanding Researcher in 1996; he received the Rudolf W. Gunnerman Silver State Award for Excellence in Science and Technology in 2003 and served as a University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Professor in 1998, as well as the recipient of the Nevada Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology Award in 2009. Dr. Misra has also been recognized by his students for his mentorship as he was awarded the Faculty Advisor award in 2009. Dr. Misra's recent research in renewal energy, more specifically in using coffee grounds and chicken feathers to produce biodiesel fuel, has garnered the attention of national media such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, Science Daily and American Scientific. Dr. Misra's work also includes applied nanotechnology for solar hydrogen generation, hydrogen storage, biomaterials for prosthetic implantation and sensor technology. Dr. Misra's work in the removal of arsenic from drinking water has earned him national recognition, as well as three patents. Several industries have taken licenses from the University of Nevada, Reno to use his arsenic technology for water purification. Additionally, his patented process for mercury removal from the cyanide streams of gold mining operations is being used both in Nevada and internationally. Dr. Misra's expertise is also recognized by his service as a reviewer for twelve different journals including Science and Nature. He also is a panel reviewer for the Department of Energy- Alternative Energy, SBIR and the Basic Science Division, NSF and the Department of Defense. Lastly, Dr. Misra has taken on the leadership role as the Director of the University of Nevada, Reno Renewable Energy Center.

Dr. Brian P. Hedlund, Rising Researcher Award

Dr. Brian Hedlund grew up in the north suburbs of Chicago. As a child, Brian's love of insects and the outdoors, in general, were early manifestations of his deeply-seeded interest in the natural world. That interest took root in the microbiology lab of Dr. Jordan Konisky at the University of Illinois, where Brian began his research career as an undergraduate Hughes Fellow studying the physiology and genetics of methanogenic archaea. After receiving his B.S. in Biology, Brian continued to develop his career at the University of Washington under the advisement of Dr. James Staley. Brian's broad interests flourished under Dr. Staley's tutelage, resulting in the publication of 13 peer reviewed publications on a variety of topics in microbiology, including papers describing the diversity and physiology of marine bacteria that metabolize petroleum, the evolution of a family of oral bacteria, and the discovery of a new phylum of bacteria, the *Verrucomicrobia*, that contain elements of the eukaryotic cytoskeleton. After receiving the Helen Raiboff Whiteley Award for outstanding doctorate from the University of Washington, Brian continued as an Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Regensburg, Germany working with Dr. Karl Stetter, who is widely considered to be the world's expert on life at high temperature. At Regensburg, Brian studied hyperthermophiles – organisms with an optimum growth temperature of more than 85°C (185°F) – including the smallest organisms known and a phylum of archaea called *Korarchaeota*. AT UNLV, Brian has continued to work on hot spring microbiology, while expanding his research into biogeochemistry – the study of the intersection between biology, geology, and chemistry. To date, Brian has published more than 40 articles in the microbiology/geochemistry literature and in 2006 received the Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation (\$841,632). Dr. Hedlund is on editorial boards for Applied and Environmental Microbiology and Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology and regularly reviews grants for NSF, NASA, and DOE. Dr. Hedlund has also taught microbiology, microbial ecology, and astrobiology to more than 800 students at UNLV.

Dr. Josh E. Baker, Rising Researcher Award

Dr. Josh Baker was born and raised in Minnesota and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics from Hamline University in St. Paul. He continued to pursue his interest in the way things work by joining the graduate program in Physics at the University of Minnesota. Two years later, Josh had the great fortune of being introduced to Dr. David Thomas who eventually convinced Josh to apply his physics background to the problem of muscle contraction. After transferring to the Biochemistry graduate program and joining Dr. Thomas' lab, Josh developed new instrumentation to simultaneously measure muscle mechanics and biochemistry with which he made the first direct measurements of mechanochemical coupling in active muscle. These observations provided novel insights into the molecular mechanisms of muscle contraction. After publishing eight peer reviewed papers in Dr. Thomas' lab, Josh transitioned from studying muscle tissue to single molecules, beginning his postdoctoral studies at the University of Vermont. Working with Dr. David Warshaw, Josh used single molecule mechanics techniques to simultaneously measure the mechanics and chemistry of single actin-myosin interactions. As an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at The University of Nevada Reno, Josh's research has focused on bridging the gap between his graduate and postdoctoral work, studying how the physical chemistry of single molecules scales up to explain the physical chemistry of muscle. To date, Josh has 23 peer reviewed publications and since joining The University of Nevada Reno has been awarded three NIH grants (\$2,000,000). Josh team teaches Medical Biochemistry, is a guest lecturer for other courses in The University of Nevada School of Medicine, and serves on the Medical School Admissions Committee.

Dr. Daniel Obrist, Rising Researcher Award

An internationally recognized expert in biogeochemistry and atmospheric cycling of mercury, Dr. Daniel Obrist is an Associate Professor in the Division of Atmospheric Sciences at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, NV. He received a M.S. degree in Plant Ecology at the University of Basel, Switzerland, and a Ph.D. in Hydrogeology from the University of Nevada, Reno. His diverse education background is reflected by active research projects where he uses multi-disciplinary approaches and collaborations to characterize mercury pollution and chemistry. Dr. Obrist has successfully developed a major research program in this area at DRI, with external research funding totaling \$3.3M in the last four years alone. Active grants include an EPA STAR grant – highly competitive grants with most proposals having less than a 5% chance of success – to evaluate the impact of climate change on Hg levels and sequestration; an U.S. National Foundation (NSF) Atmospheric Chemistry project entitled “Mercury Oxidation and Depletion in the Reactive Halogen Enriched Troposphere of the Dead Sea”; and a NSF “Major Research Instrumentation” grant to develop, in collaboration with an optical spectroscopy group, a novel, state-of-the-art sensor to measure atmospheric mercury at high temporal resolution. In terms of his public record, Dr. Obrist has 26 peer-reviewed manuscripts published in top journals, with several others recently submitted, and has 60 conference and seminar presentations, with many of these being invited lectures – indicative of peer recognition. Other services to DRI and the community include: he is a member of the DRI Faculty Senate and Sabbatical Leave Committee; he is advising a graduate student and a post-doctoral fellow and has served as advisor or committee member for five other graduate students, taught classes at UNR and UNLV, and actively participated as a peer-reviewer for many journals.