

**NEVADA REGENTS' CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AWARD NOMINEE**  
**Community College**

Xunming Du  
Great Basin College

Xunming Du has been a professor of mathematics at Great Basin College since 2003. He holds a Master's degree in Medical Statistics from Tongji Medical University, China and a Master's degree in Mathematics from Ohio University. Prior to coming to GBC, Xunming taught medical statistics and other mathematics courses to undergraduate and graduate students in China and Ohio. His publications include A Note of Wavelet Variance, published in 2008 in Communications in Statistics – Theory and Methods. His creative labor of love has been his electronic textbook for pre-calculus. The text allows students to interact with embedded graphs, tables and videos to enhance the learning process.

## NEVADA REGENTS' CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AWARD NOMINEE

### University, State College

Claudia Keelan

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Claudia Keelan was born in Southern California when it was still covered with orange groves, and NATO began the embargo, still in place, against lovely Cuba. Her teaching career has spanned all corners of the US, as she's taught in many writing programs, including the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, the University of Alabama, where she held the Coal Royalty Chair in Poetry, and the University of Nevada, where she is a Barrick Distinguished Scholar. Her honors include the Beatrice Hawley Award from Alice James Books and the Jerome Shestack prize from the American Poetry Review. The author of nine books, including the forthcoming *We Step Into the Sea: New and Selected Poems (Barrow Street)*, Keelan is a poet, literary scholar, and translator, who lives in the Mojave Desert with the poet Donald Revell, son Ben, daughter Lucie, standard poodle Miss Margaret Jarvis, and a worried schnauzer named Dugan.

## NEVADA REGENTS' TEACHING AWARD NOMINEE

### Community College

Mary Doucette  
Great Basin College

Ms. Doucette is Great Basin College's (GBC) Radiology Program developer, primary educator, program coordinator and has 30 plus years of real world experience in the field of Medical Imaging that she brings to her teaching profession. Mary is the reason GBC has an accredited Radiology Program and the primary driver of its tremendous success preparing students for placement across Nevada for the last 12 years. It is through her work that the Radiology Program now has the ability to engage students in distance education learning and clinical placements across the breadth of GBC's 86,000 square miles.

Students under her tutelage are excited to learn and eager to apply the knowledge gained in real world applications and know they are held to the highest professional standards. For these reasons, Mary recently co-founded and serves as the current Board Chair of the Nevada Society of Radiologic Technologists (NvSRT), a recognized affiliate of the American Society of Radiologist Technologists (ASRT). Through these activities, Mary has involved her students in state and national conferences, along with having students accepted into the national ASRT Leadership Development Program. Mary continually promotes lifelong learning, most recently with her pursuit of a doctorate degree in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Healthcare Administration, after receiving a Master of Science degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology from University of Nevada, Reno in 2009, and her Bachelor of Science in Advanced Radiologic Sciences-Radiology Practitioner Assistant from Weber State University.

## NEVADA REGENTS' TEACHING AWARD NOMINEE

### University, State College and DRI

Zachary Woydziak  
Nevada State College

Before joining the Nevada State College (NSC) faculty in 2012, Dr. Zachary Woydziak obtained two Bachelors of Science degrees, one in Chemistry and one in Biochemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno, and conducted significant undergraduate research under Dr. David A. Lightner. He then obtained a Ph.D. at the University of California, Irvine in Chemistry under the guidance of Dr. Richard A. Chamberlain. As a graduate student, Dr. Woydziak became very interested in teaching at the college level and participated in a pedagogical program, where he took advanced pedagogical courses and trained incoming chemistry graduate students as teaching assistants/discussion group leaders. Additionally, he was awarded a departmental teaching award and eventually a NIH IRACDA post-doctoral fellowship. Dr. Woydziak's post-doctoral position was unique in the sense that it involved both a medicinal chemistry research component and a teaching component. For the research component, he pursued the synthesis of novel and biologically compatible fluorophores at the University of Kansas under the guidance of Dr. Blake R. Peterson. The teaching component involved instructing lecture courses in organic chemistry and natural products at Haskell University (the only all nations Native American four-year college).

Since early in his graduate career, Dr. Woydziak has strived to balance his research experience with pedagogical training, in order to best prepare himself for the demands of a faculty at a teaching college. As the first chemistry faculty member at NSC, Dr. Woydziak has taught nine different courses in lower and upper division chemistry and has consistently received some of the highest student evaluations both within his department (Physical and Life Sciences) and within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Woydziak has received excellent rankings in teaching for every year he has been at the college. His teaching style incorporates active learning and engagement strategies though blending class problem sets and "real-life" or intriguing applications with a standard lecture. He also wrote and was the first to implement the Chemistry minor degree at NSC. For these reasons, Dr. Woydziak received the 2015 NSC ITEACH Award for Teaching Excellence.

In addition to his teaching engagements, Dr. Woydziak has performed a large degree of service and scholarship to the college. He has served as a faculty senator for three years and is currently serving as the faculty senate chair for NSC. He has also chaired three successful search committees over the last three years. Dr. Woydziak's scholarly pursuits at NSC have resulted in mentoring twenty-five undergraduate research students over the course of five years. He was one of the first three faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to help develop a full-scale summer research program through NIH INBRE funding and currently serves as the site coordinator on this grant. Additionally, Dr. Woydziak has authored six publications while at NSC, several resulting from research conducted by his undergraduate students, and has been instrumental in the acquisition of over \$500,000 worth of glassware and research equipment.

**NEVADA REGENTS' ACADEMIC ADVISOR AWARD NOMINEE**  
**Community College**

Tricia Wentz  
Western Nevada College

Tricia Wentz was born and raised in Carson City, Nevada and graduated from Carson High School. Wentz earned a Bachelor of Arts in Socials and a Master of Arts in Counseling from University of Nevada, Reno. Wentz worked for Douglas County School District for 13 years in roles which included high school counselor, Career and Technical Education Coordinator and Lead Secondary Counselor. Wentz joined the Counseling Services department at Western Nevada College, first as a Counselor/Coordinator of Outreach for The Bridge to Success program. She currently coordinates the Jump Start College Program. Wentz has been married for 33 years and has five children and five grandchildren.

**NEVADA REGENTS' ACADEMIC ADVISOR AWARD NOMINEE**  
**Undergraduate – University, State College**

Natasha Rudi  
University of Nevada, Reno

Natasha Rudi was born and raised in the Republic of Moldova, where she graduated from a Russian school and a Romanian university with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. During her undergraduate career, Natasha participated in cultural exchange programs, which resulted in her involvement with a non-governmental organization geared toward student development. Having partnered with the European Union Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, Natasha acted in the capacity of an international delegate promoting diversity, solidarity, and tolerance through intercultural conflict handling. Upon successful completion of her Bachelor's Degree, Natasha continued her education in the United States.

As a graduate student pursuing a Master's Degree in International Affairs, Natasha also worked part-time as a teaching assistant and academic advisor during summer orientations at the University of Nevada, Reno. The ability to connect with fellow scholars bolstered her desire to pursue a career in academia as well, which is why she was excited to accept a full-time position as an Academic Advisor for the College of Liberal Arts. Additionally, Natasha serves as the Diversity Coordinator for NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) Region 9 (CA, HI, & NV).

**NEVADA REGENTS' ACADEMIC ADVISOR AWARD NOMINEE**  
**Graduate - University, State College**

Michelle Paul  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dr. Paul received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Vermont in 1997. She has worked in the Las Vegas community as a practicing psychologist since 1999. She joined the UNLV Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program as the Associate Director of Clinical Training in 2004 where she devotes her time to the coordination and oversight of doctoral students' clinical competency development. Dr. Paul serves as a liaison between the department and community of professional psychologists in southern Nevada. She works to oversee and develop diverse doctoral practicum training opportunities for clinical psychology students. In 2011 she developed a University community mental health training clinic, The Partnership for Research, Assessment, Counseling, Therapy and Innovative Clinical Education, or, The PRACTICE. Under her direction, The PRACTICE serves as an education, research and service unit where graduate students learn best practices in mental health and behavioral health service provision.

In addition to her dedication to education and training, Dr. Paul has been committed to professional service. As an active member of the Nevada Psychological Association, she served as the Public Education Coordinator, Legislative Committee Chair, Southern Region President, and Executive Board President for two terms and President of the Nevada Psychological Association Training Consortium Executive Board. She was honored by the association for "Outstanding Advocate for Psychology" in 2004, 2008 and 2011, and received the James Mikawa Award for Outstanding Psychologist in 2009. In 2011 and 2015, she was appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval to serve as a member of the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners. And, in 2016 was elected President of the Board. Dr. Paul applies her clinical and professional service experience to develop and enrich the practical training experience for UNLV's mental and behavioral health graduate trainees and truly embraces her role as a professional mentor and model to them.

## NEVADA REGENTS' RESEARCHER AWARD NOMINEE

Mae Gustin  
University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Mae Gustin, University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, has contributed to scientific advancements in the detection and fate of mercury in atmospheric, terrestrial, and aquatic environments. Dr. Gustin joined the faculty of the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) in 1994. Her primary research interest is the study of inorganic contaminants in the environment, and she is especially interested in regional and long-range transport of air pollution, and how air moves in complex terrains. Her recent work focuses primarily on understanding the chemistry and environmental fate of atmospheric mercury, and the sources of ozone and other air pollutants. While this work has worldwide implications, Dr. Gustin also places considerable focus on Nevada and the West. She managed the Nevada Rural Ozone Initiative, a large project to measure air pollutants. Dr. Gustin has published more than 150 peer-reviewed journal articles and given more than 190 presentations at national and international conferences, including more than 50 invited seminars and presentations.

Dr. Gustin was named the University's Outstanding Researcher in 2016, the CABNR Researcher of the Year in 2001 and again in 2015, and a Nevada Women's Fund Woman of Achievement in 2010. She has served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on International Transport of Air Pollutants, member of the National Atmospheric Deposition Network Scientific Advisory Board, panel member at the National Science Foundation, associate editor for the journal *Science of the Total Environment* and referee for many prominent journals in the environmental science field.



**NEVADA REGENTS' RISING RESEARCHER AWARD NOMINEE**  
**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

Georgiann Davis  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Georgiann Davis is assistant professor of sociology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Davis' research lies at the intersection of medicine and sex, gender, and sexuality. She is also an expert in both statistical and ethnographic research methodologies. Dr. Davis' seminal scholarly contribution is her recent award-winning book, *Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis*, published by New York University Press. In August 2017, she received the top award in her field – the very prestigious American Sociological Association's Sex and Gender book award. In addition to her book Dr. Davis also has 19 peer-reviewed research publications. She has published in top sociology, top medical, and the top bioethics journals. Dr. Davis is highly regarded for her collegial and collaborative nature, her outstanding work with both undergraduate and doctoral students, and her impressive array of scholarly accomplishments.

## NEVADA RISING RESEARCHER AWARD NOMINEE

### University of Nevada, Reno

Wesley Chalifoux  
University of Nevada, Reno

Professor Wesley A. Chalifoux received his B.Sc. from the University of Alberta (Alberta, Canada) in 2004 where he conducted undergraduate research under the direction of Professor Rik R. Tykwinski. During his undergraduate training, he was given the opportunity to do a one-year industrial internship at Raylo Chemicals (currently Gilead Sciences, Edmonton) on an NSERC IURA award. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta (Alberta, Canada) in 2010 as an NSERC CGS-D and Alberta Ingenuity Scholar under the supervision of Professor Rik R. Tykwinski. The focus of his dissertation was the synthesis and study of polyynes to gain insight into the properties of the elusive carbon allotrope, carbyne.

After postdoctoral work at Columbia University as an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow under the supervision of James L. Leighton, Wesley joined the department of chemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2012 as an assistant professor. He has a strong passion for teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, which was recognized with the Gene Lemay Teaching Excellence Award. His research focus is organic synthesis and method development within a number of subareas that include polycyclic terpenoids, tandem and multicomponent cyclization reactions, novel polycyclic aromatics, nanographenes, and graphene nanoribbons. His work at UNR was recently honored with the Mousel-Feltner Award for Excellence in Research.

**NEVADA RISING RESEARCHER AWARD NOMINEE**  
**University of Nevada, Reno**

Jacqueline Snow  
University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Jacqueline Snow joined the Cognitive and Brain Sciences Program in the Department of Psychology at UNR in Fall 2013. Jacquie has a strong background in Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, specializing in Clinical Neuropsychology and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Jacquie completed a Masters in Clinical Neuropsychology and PhD at the University of Melbourne, Australia. She then completed two years of postdoctoral research at the University of Birmingham, and five years of postdoctoral research at the Brain and Mind Institute at The University of Western Ontario, Canada. Jacquie and her students study human behavioral and brain responses to real world graspable objects, and how these processes differ from those that unfold when we look at representations of objects (e.g., in the form of 2D pictures, 3D stereo images, or 'virtual' 3D objects).

Jacquie's approach presents a fundamental departure from current methods in psychology and neuroscience, which rely almost exclusively on impoverished images. Her research provides fundamental new insights into the brain mechanisms that support naturalistic vision. Jacquie's research uses a powerful multipronged approach including psychophysics, eye-tracking, augmented reality, neuropsychology, EEG, and fMRI. Jacquie's research is supported by an NIH R01, the Clinical Translational Research Infrastructure Network (CTR- IN), an NSF EPSCoR, and private industry partner (META Co.). Jacquie is currently the President of the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, and is part of the Integrated Program in Neuroscience at UNR. She teaches a large survey undergraduate course in Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 240), as well as graduate seminars in *Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging*, *Clinical Neuropsychology*, the *Cognitive and Neural Basis of Object Perception*, *Perception and Action*, and *Scientific Writing and Grantsmanship*.

**NEVADA REGENTS' RISING RESEARCHER AWARD NOMINEE**  
**Desert Research Institute**

Vera Samburova  
Desert Research Institute

Dr. Vera Samburova received her Ph.D. in Environmental Organic Chemistry from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich in 2007, after which she was recruited at Desert Research Institute as a Post Doc and subsequently transitioned to an Assistant Research Professor. As a member of the Organic Analysis Laboratory (OAL) in the Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Dr. Samburova's research has focused on the collection and analysis of atmospheric organic species, characterization and quantification of organic emissions from various sources like biomass burning and fossil fuels. She recently initiated an internally funded investigation of the emissions from e-cigarettes. She found dangerously high levels of toxic aldehydes and discovered that they were the thermal breakdown products of flavor additives widely used by the manufacturers. This has led to a new and exciting area of research for the OAL looking at inhalation and indoor air quality related health effects.

Dr. Samburova has authored a total of 31 peer reviewed publications, 18 since joining DRI, and 7 as first author. Her paper titled "Flavoring Compounds Dominate Toxic Aldehyde Production during E-Cigarette Vaping", published in December 2016 in Environmental Science and Technology was cited 9 times in as many months. Since starting at DRI she has had leadership roles in 26 proposals, over half as the principal investigator, for a combined value of over \$9 million, of which 9 were funded for a total of over \$1.2 million. The three currently active programs that she leads are funded at over \$900,000. She has also been actively involved in the Atmospheric Sciences Graduate Program at UNR where she has taught classes every year starting in 2008, and has been the Deputy Director of that program for the last five years.