

*2024  
Wilson  
Awards  
Banquet*



**PennState**  
College of Earth  
and Mineral Sciences



**2024**  
***Wilson Awards***  
***Banquet***



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

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

**5 p.m. Reception**

**6 p.m. Dinner**

# *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.”*

# Welcome

**Lee Kump**, John Leone Dean in the  
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences



## *Promotion and Tenure*

**Allison Beese**, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

**Trevor Birkenholtz**, Professor of Geography

**Kevin Bowley**, Associate Teaching Professor of Meteorology  
and Atmospheric Science

**Mark Fedkin**, Associate Teaching Professor of Energy and  
Mineral Engineering

**Megan Kohler**, Assistant Teaching Professor in the  
Dutton Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence

**Shimin Liu**, Professor of Energy and Mineral  
Engineering & Thomas V. and Jean C. Falkie  
Mining Engineering Faculty Fellow

**Amin Mehrabian**, Associate Professor of Petroleum  
and Natural Gas Engineering

**Natasha Miles**, Research Professor of Meteorology  
and Atmospheric Science

**David Miller**, Associate Research Professor of Meteorology  
and Atmospheric Science

**April Millet**, Associate Teaching Professor in the  
Dutton Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence

**Mohammad Rezaee**, Associate Professor of Energy and Mineral  
Engineering and Centennial Career Development  
Professor in Mining Engineering

**Brandi Robinson**, Associate Teaching Professor of Energy  
and Mineral Engineering

**Stevie Rocco**, Associate Teaching Professor in the  
Dutton Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence  
and Director of Learning Design

## *25-Year Service Awards*

**Venkatraman Gopalan**, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

**Tanya Furman**, Research Professor of Geosciences

**Peter Heaney**, Professor of Geosciences

**Andrew Kleit**, Professor of Energy and Environmental Economics

**Zi-Kui Liu**, Dorothy Pate Enright Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

**Evangelos Manias**, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

**Jonathan Mathews**, Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering

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## *Retirements*

**Todd Bacastow**, Teaching Professor of Geography

**William Easterling**, Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Geography

**Alan Taylor**, Professor Emeritus of Geography

**Julianne Snider**, Associate Research Professor, EMS Museum & Art Gallery

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## *Gladys Snyder Faculty Enrichment Grants*

**Antonia Hadjimichael**

Assistant Professor of Geosciences

**“Navigating the Complexity of Earth System Risks Through Cross-Class Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Experiential Learning”**

**Kevin Haworth**

Assistant Teaching Professor and Giles Writer-in-Residence

**“Writing Pedagogy Workshop for Graduate Teaching Assistants”**

**Emily Rosenman**

Assistant Professor of Geography

**“The geographies of racial justice philanthropy in Detroit, Michigan”**

**Pengfei Zhang**

Assistant Research Professor of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

**“Using machine learning to improve the modeling of air-ice interaction during atmospheric rivers reaching the Arctic”**

## *George H. Deike, Jr. Research Grant*

**Louisa Holmes**

**and**

**Emily Rosenman**

Assistant Professors of  
Geography



**“Geographies of Corporate Harm: Countering Opioid Marketing Tactics at Multiple Scales”**

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

**Ida Djenontin**

Assistant Professor of Geography

**“When governance integration matters for ecosystem restoration-based climate solutions: Assessing contextual institutional arrangements for effective landscape governance of restoration initiatives”**

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*Wilson Research  
Initiation Grant*

**Nairiti Sinha**

Assistant Professor of Materials Science  
and Engineering

**“Bioinspired synthesis of chiral gold nanoparticles in coacervate core micelles”**



# *College-level Student Awards*

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

Undergraduate: **Emily Shiels** Geography

Graduate: **Harman Singh**, Geography

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## *Ellen Steidle Achievement Award*

Senior: **Emily Shiels**, Geography

Junior: **Danielle Dedeaux**, Geography

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## *Dean Edward Steidle Memorial Scholar Award*

**Christian Spallone**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science

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## *GEMS Diamond Award*

**Tori Miller**, Environmental Systems Engineering

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## *Student Marshal*

**Michael Mervosh**, B.S. Materials Science and Engineering

*Michael will graduate Summa Cum Laude  
with a 4.0 cumulative GPA*

## *Science Honor Marshal*

**Brenden Franks**, B.S. Geography and Finance

*Brenden will graduate Summa Cum Laude  
with a 3.99 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 2023 EMSAGE Laureates

- **Nate Cherok**, Geography
- **Olivia DiPrinzio**, Earth Science and Policy
- **Sarah Fetter**, Earth Science
- **Jongkyeong (Martin) Kim**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Michael Mervosh**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Tsunami Sharmba**, Environmental Systems Engineering
- **Emily Shiels**, Geography
- **Alekya Srinivasan**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Joe Thompson**, Energy and Sustainability Policy

## Spring 2024 EMSAGE Laureates

- **Olivia Adams**, Earth Sciences
- **Sami Al Azri**, Energy Engineering
- **Elizabeth Baierlein**, Energy Engineering
- **Zachary Baran**, Geosciences
- **Alexander Cerminaro**, Geosciences
- **Gwendolyn Cullen**, Energy Business and Finance
- **Danielle Dedeaux**, Geography
- **Emma Enos**, Geobiology
- **Clare Gibson**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Cris Kocian**, Geobiology
- **Sonya Lewis**, Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
- **Alexandra Lister**, Geography
- **Valentina Marin Lopez**, Geosciences
- **Tori Miller**, Environmental Systems Engineering
- **Adam Sipe**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Octavia Szkutnik**, Earth Science and Policy
- **Alejandro Toro**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Amanda Urist**, Geosciences
- **Caden Vitti**, Energy Engineering



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

**Wesley Reinhart**

Assistant Professor of Materials  
Science and Engineering

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*Wilson Award for  
Excellence in Teaching*

**Melissa Gervais**

Assistant Professor of Meteorology  
and Atmospheric Science



*George H. K. Schenck  
Teaching Assistant  
Award*

**Ianna Gomez Mendez**

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Energy  
and Mineral Engineering



*Wilson Award for  
Outstanding Service*

**Donald Fisher**

Professor of Geosciences



*Faculty Advising  
Award*

**Ronald Redwing**

Associate Teaching Professor of  
Materials Science and Engineering

*Faculty Mentoring  
Award*

**Robert Hickey**

Associate Professor of Materials  
Science and Engineering



*Catherine Lyons Diversity, Equity and  
Inclusion Student Awards*



Undergraduate Award

**Danielle Dedeaux**

Geography



Graduate Award

**Harman Singh**

Geography

*Charles Hosler Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion  
Faculty Award*

**Allison Beese**

Professor of Materials Science and  
Engineering, Associate Head for Diversity,  
Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in MatSE



*Charles Hosler Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion  
Postdoctoral Award*

**Jacob Carstens**

Postdoctoral Scholar,  
Meteorology and Atmospheric Science



*Wilson Award for  
Excellence in Research*

**Christopher House**

Professor of Geosciences



*Postdoctoral Excellence  
in Research Award*

**Nicholas Clark**

Materials Science and Engineering

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

**Jesse Reimink**

Assistant Professor of Geosciences  
and Rudy L. Slingerland  
Early Career Professor



# *Congratulations*

*to all of our awardees!*



This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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