Awards & Accolades

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Congratulations to these recent honorees.

Ogden Will be First From UA to Lead American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Kimberly Ogden [1], professor of chemical and environmental engineering, will serve as the 2018 president-elect and 2019 president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers [2]. Ogden is the first UA faculty member to be elected president of the organization, which has 53,000 members in 110 countries.

Ogden’s research includes developing on a mass scale biofuels that are cleaner than fossil fuels. She is also director of the UA Institute for Energy Solutions [3] and the head of the newly launched Sustainable Bioeconomy for Arid Regions Center [4].

Neumayer Elected to Leadership Position With American College of Surgeons

Dr. Leigh A. Neumayer [5], interim senior vice president for health sciences, has been elected chair of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons [6], which sets standards for surgical education and practice to improve care for surgical patients.

Neumayer was elected at the college’s annual clinical congress, held in San Diego in late October.

Inducted as a fellow of the college in 1994, Neumayer has been a member of the Board of Regents since 2009. She served as vice chair in 2016 and 2017. She currently serves on the editorial boards for the Journal of the American College of Surgeons and Annals of Surgery.

Neumayer’s research focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer through technology and clinical trials. She has led investigations into hernia repair, breast cancer treatment and surgical education techniques.

UITs Recognized for Overall Excellence in Cloud Storage

University Information Technology Services [7] has been recognized for achievements in using cloud-based IT solutions.

UITs was awarded an overall win at the inaugural Cloud Leadership Awards [8], hosted by E&I Cooperative Services, a purchasing cooperative that serves educational institutions. The award was announced at the EDUCAUSE 2017 conference held last month in Philadelphia.
UITs, which shared the award with the University of Notre Dame, also won in the subcategory of Backup/Disaster Recovery. More than 100 higher education institutions were nominated in six categories.

The UA adopted its "cloud first" policy three years ago. Now, about one-third of the University's IT services are housed in the cloud rather than in servers on campus.

Liverman Honored by American Geographical Society

Diana Liverman, Regents' Professor of Geography and Development, has been given the American Geographical Society's Alexander and Ilse Melamid Medal. The organization presented the medal to Liverman last month during its fall symposium, held at Columbia University.

The medal recognizes "outstanding work on the dynamic relationship between the natural world and humans," according to the society's website. Liverman, the organization said, "has combined the skills of the scientist and the humanist" to study the impact of climate change on humanity, particularly the most vulnerable.

Cleven Receives Regional Emmy for Short Film

Mari Cleven, a senior videographer for the Office of Research, Discovery and Innovation, garnered a Rocky Mountain Emmy Award for her video, "Dream Delivery Service." The video won in the Human Interest - News Single Story/Series/Feature category.

Regional Emmys, issued by chapters of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, recognize excellence in local television and multimedia.

Cleven's four-minute short film features writer Mathias Svalina, who delivers handwritten dreams to subscribers in cities across the U.S.


The Office of Diversity and Inclusive Excellence and Facilities Management were recognized by the Society for Human Resources Management of Greater Tucson at its Celebrating Innovation in the Workplace Awards ceremony last month.

ODIEX received an award in the category of Diversity and Inclusion. The award recognizes the office's Inclusive Excellence Strategic Initiative, which aims to embed "diversity and inclusiveness in every aspect of the UA." As a result of the initiative, according to nominating materials, hiring committees are more aware of diversity, and the UA workforce has become increasingly diverse.

Facilities Management was recognized in the Technology/Process Improvement category for partnering with Life & Work Connections to highlight employee health and wellness with events that included employee training, screenings, flu shots and a fitness challenge. Facilities Management also allotted resources to give its employees time for activities related to physical and mental health.
Two From UA to be Named 'Local Geniuses'

The Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson will give two of its three 2018 Local Genius Awards to UA professors. The awards, which recognize Tucsonans whose work or talents have made a global impact, will be presented at the museum's annual gala on April 14.

Carol Barnes is a Regents’ Professor of Psychology and director of the UA’s Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute. Her research looks at how the human brain changes during the aging process, and how aging lays the groundwork for pathological changes like Alzheimer’s disease.

Susan Stryker is an associate professor in the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies. She is an award-winning writer, editor and filmmaker whose accolades include a regional Emmy Award for her documentary "Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria," which is about transgender women and drag queens who fought police harassment in San Francisco in 1966. Styker also helped establish the UA Transgender Studies Initiative.

Zepeda Receives Library Legend Award

Ofelia Zepeda, Regents’ Professor of Linguistics and director of the UA American Indian Language Development Institute, has been given the UA’s Library Legend Award. Zepeda received the award at a ceremony on Nov. 30.

The award honors members of the Tucson community who have made significant contributions related to the library’s role in providing access to scholarship and creative expression. Zepeda was selected to receive the award in recognition of her work to preserve the culture and native language of the Tohono O’odham Nation through poetry, stories and songs.

An addition to the University Libraries Special Collections is made in each Library Legend honoree’s name. Zepeda was honored with a portfolio of linocut prints by artist Meredith Stern that highlight the preamble and the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in Paris in 1948.

Miller, Soren and Tolbert Honored for ‘Superior Teaching’

The UA Humanities Seminars Program presented its annual Superior Teaching Awards during a ceremony held at the Poetry Center last month.

The three honorees and the courses for which they were honored are:

- Thomas P. Miller, professor of English and vice provost for faculty affairs, How We Feel About Politics.
- David Soren, Regents' Professor of Anthropology, 50 Years of Archaeology: A Celebration.
- Leslie Tolbert, Regents' Professor of Neuroscience, The Ever-Changing Brain.

Students in the Humanities Seminars Program nominated the courses in end-of-semester evaluation forms. Awardees receive stipends; the program has given out $263,000 since 1985.
We want to know about your good news. If you, your team or a colleague has won any major awards, been honored nationally or internationally, or accomplished some other major feat that deserves recognition, let us know about it.

To submit your news, please send us an email with the following information:

- Name of the person, team or unit receiving the honor with full UA titles.
- Information about the award/honor and the organization that granted it. Please include a link to the official announcement of the award/honor. When the honor was announced and when it will be presented (or was presented).
- A photo of the honoree. If others appear in the photo, please provide their names and identifying information, such as their UA title or other affiliation.

Questions? Contact Lo Que Pasa at uaatwork@email.arizona.edu [28].

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