

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Adopted by the Regents  
May 16, 2013

Item for Information

**Subject:** Henry Russel Awards for 2014

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, has selected three faculty members to receive Henry Russel Awards for 2014. This award, which recognizes both exceptional scholarship and conspicuous ability as a teacher, is one of the highest honors the University bestows upon junior faculty members. The awards will be presented on the occasion of the Henry Russel Lecture, to be delivered in the spring of 2014.


The faculty members selected to receive this award are:

Dragan Huterer, Associate Professor, Physics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Scott Lyons, Associate Professor, American Culture, Associate Professor, English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Thomas Wenisch, Morris Wellman Faculty Development Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering

Respectfully submitted:

  
Mary Sue Coleman  
President

May 2013

Attachment

## **Dragan Huterer**

Dragan Huterer is associate professor of physics, College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Professor Huterer came to the University of Michigan in 2007 from the University of Chicago, where he was a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics and the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics. He had been a Research Associate in physics at Case Western Reserve University upon receiving his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Chicago in 2001.

Professor Huterer is a theoretical physicist working at the intersection of cosmology and elementary particle physics. His principal interest is in understanding the nature and origin of dark energy. He uses cosmological probes to study the properties of dark energy; these include measurements of distances to type Ia supernovae, mapping the growth and evolution of the large-scale structure in the universe, and gravitational lensing. Professor Huterer also is actively involved in studying the isotropy of the universe and the mathematical distribution of primordial inhomogeneities that seeded structures observed on the sky today. Most recently, he and his collaborators discovered a novel signature of primordial nongaussianity. The signature affects the distribution of galaxies today, and enables more precise measurements of primordial nongaussianity than previously thought possible.

Professor Huterer's notable research productivity is evident. For example, he has three major research grants totaling over \$1,000,000. During his time at UM he has had more than 30 publications, 4,000 citations and now has an h-index of 30. He is a frequently invited speaker and already has written several review articles considered by his peers to be classics in the field. In his work as a phenomenologist, Professor Huterer is developing new types of research that allow experimental data to be connected to the wealth of competing fundamental models. The prominence of his research at this early stage of his career is signaled by his selection as an Outstanding Junior Investigator by the Department of Energy in 2008.

## Scott Lyons

Professor Lyons (Leech Lake Ojibwe) holds a joint appointment at the university in American Culture and English Language and Literature. He received his Ph.D. in English from Miami University in Ohio in 2000, his Master's degree from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, and his B.A. in English from Concordia College in Minnesota. He joined the University of Michigan in 2011 from his tenured position in as associate professor of English at Syracuse University where he had been on the faculty for a decade. Prior to that he was a faculty member at St. John Fisher College, Leech Lake Tribal College, and Concordia College in Minnesota, all of which enriched his pedagogical skills.

Professor Lyons is able, through his research, to present innovative and challenging perspectives on Native American literature and culture, global indigenous studies, colonial discourse and settler colonialism. Yet his interests range widely to related topics such as post-humanism, animal studies and the literature of discovery, encounter and conquest. His remarkable approach was crystalized in his book, *X-Marks: Native Signatures of Assent* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010), which was awarded the Beatrice Medicine Award for Scholarship in Native American Studies in 2011. His analysis offers a valuable alternative to both imperialist concepts of assimilation and nativist notions of resistance.

The effect of his intervention in contemporary dialogues is evident in the voice he brings to his many research publications, essays and commentaries. Professor Lyons has been frequently featured as an invited keynote speaker at conferences, on television and on radio. His active engagement in the academic community is evident in frequent and wide-ranging service both at the university and nationally. His commitment to thinking and practicing an expansive pedagogy has been recognized by, among other honors and awards, a Faculty Fellowship at the Institute for the Humanities for 2013-2014, a Department of Education grant totaling over \$250,000, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Scholarship.

## Thomas Wenisch

Professor Wenisch earned his Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in 2007 after earning a joint B.S. in computer engineering and B.A. in German from the University of Rhode Island in 2000. He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 2007 as an assistant professor of computer science and engineering, and in recognition of his talents, became the Morris Wellman Faculty Development Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 2011.

His fields of research include high-performance computer architecture, server and data center energy efficiency, smartphone platforms, multiprocessor systems, and performance evaluation methodology. While at UM Professor Wenisch has built a research program to develop energy-efficient infrastructure for data centers, which is critical to management of the rapidly expanding economic and environmental costs of computing. Among his lines of novel research is his idea for a modular on-chip cache design in which software configures primitive hardware mechanisms to provide a cache architecture suited to a specific workload of programs.

Professor Wenisch's research has attracted substantial external funding; in one year's time he obtained two grants from the National Science Foundation and two grants from Google, notable achievements for faculty members at any level. During his six years at UM he has received 12 grants. His research has been recognized with a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation and in 2011 earned him a place in the International Symposium of Computer Architecture ISCA Hall of Fame.

His record of publication also is extraordinary for one in so early into their career and includes nine papers from top-tier conferences, as well as more than a dozen other papers in other publications.

Professor Wenisch already has recruited six students to graduate study and taught courses ranging from junior-level undergraduate to advanced graduate courses. His pedagogy emphasizes critical thinking skills that encourage students to seek an understanding of the reasons for particular solutions to systems engineering problems. His dedication to teaching goes beyond the university through collaboration with colleagues, teachers and administrators from the Ypsilanti School District to define an educational outreach activity for energy-efficient ultra-computing that can be integrated into 6-12 educational programs.