

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

Item for Information

Received by the Regents  
July 19, 2007

**Subject:** Henry Russel Awards for 2008


I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, has selected two faculty members to receive Henry Russel Awards for 2008. 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 March 11, 2008.

The faculty members selected to receive this award are:

**Edwin A. Bergin**, Assistant Professor of Astronomy, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

**Jason D. Owen-Smith**, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Assistant Professor of Organizational Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Respectfully submitted:

  
Mary Sue Coleman  
President

July 2007

Attachment

## **Edwin A. Bergin**

Upon receiving his Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Massachusetts in 1995, Professor Bergin served both as astronomer and astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, before assuming his present faculty position in Astronomy at the University of Michigan in 2003.

Dr. Bergin is one of the leading astrochemists of his generation. Through the spectroscopic detection of molecular species, astrochemistry provides a means to infer physical conditions in molecular clouds, protostellar clouds and protoplanetary disks. Professor Bergin's studies have had major impacts on broad areas of astrophysics, ranging from the understanding of star formation to the formation of the solar system.

Professor Bergin has also made contributions to the search for water in interstellar space, of key interest for understanding the origins of life. He has made major contributions to understanding physical conditions in planet-forming circumstellar disks, which has implications for interpreting solar system abundances in terms of its history of planet formation. Professor Bergin has also pioneered models of the formation of molecular clouds from atomic flows in the solar neighborhood; their success has led to further efforts to understand the fragmentation of molecular clouds into stars as a result of dynamical instabilities.

Professor Bergin has served as part of the Submillimeter Wave Astronomy Satellite team and his work will enable the Department to take advantage of the major new radio astronomy facility, the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA), which has the potential to revolutionize the understanding of star and planet formation. In addition, he is the only American principal investigator guaranteed time on the European Space Agency's Herschel Space Observatory.

His work has already gained him global recognition as a leader in understanding chemical reactions in interstellar clouds. Every aspect of Professor Bergin's record gives ample evidence of his exemplary intellectual and professional accomplishments. The high distinction he has brought to the University of Michigan and the Department of Astronomy makes him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.

## **Jason D. Owen-Smith**

Professor Owen-Smith has made original and significant contributions to the areas of economic sociology, organizational theory, and the sociology of science. Much of his research revolves around the growing commercialization of American universities, a process that has accelerated since the 1980 passage of the Bayh-Dole Act that gave U.S. small businesses and non-profit organizations (including universities) intellectual property control of inventions that resulted from federally-funded research. Professor Owen-Smith advances a fresh and provocative understanding of commercialization, rejecting the positions staked out by both its critics, for whom it poses a threat to the pursuit of pure knowledge, as well as its promoters, who see it as the salvation for resource-starved institutions of higher education. Instead, he identifies more precisely where commercial and academic cultures clash and where they complement on another. By combining large scale quantitative studies on patents with ethnographic field work into how science is carried out, Professor Owen-Smith demonstrates how commercialization generates new institutional pressures with the capacity to allow academic cultures to become engines of novelty and innovation.

Professor Owen-Smith's visibility and scholarly impact is demonstrated by his receipt of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, one of only three sociologists to receive the recognition. He has also been awarded an Industry Studies Fellowship in Biotechnology from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and was recently elected to the council of the American Sociological Association's Science, Knowledge, and Technology section.

Beyond his impressive research accomplishments, Professor Owen-Smith has amassed a record of teaching and service that is exemplary. Every aspect of his career gives ample evidence of stellar intellectual and professional accomplishment. The high distinction that he has brought to the University of Michigan, the Department of Sociology and the Organizational Studies Program make him exceptionally qualified to receive the Henry Russel Award.