

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

Item for Information

**Subject:** Henry Russel Awards for 2009

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, selected three faculty members to receive Henry Russel Awards for 2009. 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 10, 2009.

The faculty members selected to receive this award are:

**Luming Duan**, Associate Professor of Physics, College of Literature, Science and the Arts

**Anna M. Grzymala-Busse**, Associate Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science and the Arts

**Laura K. Kasischke**, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science & Arts

Respectfully submitted:



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Mary Sue Coleman  
President

July 2008

Attachment

## Luming Duan

Professor Duan completed his Ph.D. in Physics in 1998 at the University of Science and Technology of China (Hefei) and came to the University of Michigan from the California Institute of Technology in 2003.

Professor Duan is a theoretical atomic physicist whose research is focused on the physics of quantum information and on the physics of ultracold atoms. He is among the top scientists in the world working in the highly competitive field of the physics of quantum information. He has also made important contributions in the study of cold atoms. In this field he has concentrated on simulating condensed matter systems using atoms trapped in optical lattices that are subjected to controllable interactions. Using such systems, he has been able to uncover effects that are much more difficult, if not impossible, to observe cleanly in condensed matter systems. Professor Duan and his colleagues have shown how to exploit the quantum mechanical tunneling between the atoms at different lattice sites to simulate magnetic interactions in solids.

Professor Duan is an excellent teacher. He brings new vitality to the quantum mechanics and atomic physics courses and has played an important role in the mentoring of graduate students. It is unusual for a theorist to have more than one or two PhD students at a time. Professor Duan has had three or more PhD students concurrently during his years at Michigan.

Professor Duan is serving on the Executive Committee of the Michigan Center for Theoretical Physics. He is a "thrust leader" in FOCUS, the NSF Physics Frontier Center at the University of Michigan. He is involved actively in working to establish the Michigan Quantum Institute, an interdisciplinary effort devoted to studies of quantum information and correlated many-body physics.

## Anna M. Grzymala-Busse

Professor Grzymala-Busse. Associate Professor of Political Science, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, completed an undergraduate degree in Public and International Affairs from Princeton in 1990, a MPhil from Cambridge in Social and Political Studies in 1993, and a PhD (with Distinction) from the Government Department at Harvard in 1999. She became Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yale in 2000, earning tenure there in 2004. That same year, she left Yale and came to Michigan as Associate Professor in Political Science.

Professor Anna Grzymala-Busse is widely recognized as the leading political scientist of her generation working on the politics of Eastern and Central Europe, and as one of a handful of the best in her cohort working on comparative politics generally. She is consistently rated as an exceptional teacher and mentor and is active in the Comparative Politics Workshop (CPW).

Grzymala-Busse is a prolific scholar and reviews for more than a dozen journals and two academic presses while also serving on the editorial board of three major journals. She has published two books through the Cambridge University Press, *Rebuilding Leviathan: Party Competition and State Exploitation in Post-Communist Democracies* (Cambridge, 2007) and *Redeeming the Communist Past: The Regeneration of the Communist Successor Parties in East Central Europe* (Cambridge, 2002). She is an active voice nationally, having just in the last year given seminars at Northwestern, Duke, Yale, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, and Columbia.

### Laura K. Kasischke

Professor Kasischke, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science & Arts (and recommended for promotion to Associate Professor this year), is a writer, literary critic, and exceptional teacher. She was hired as a joint appointment in the Department of English and the Residential College in 2004. She came to Michigan with a distinguished record in creative writing, which was underscored by a growing national reputation as a poet and as a novelist.

The list of literary awards and fellowships that Professor Kasischke has achieved provides further evidence of her reputation and talent. She has won two National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowships (1994 and 2005), four Pushcart Prizes (1993, 1998, 2001, and 2006), a Frost Place Poet in Residence (2005), and the Cohen Award for the best work of short fiction (2006), Best American Poetry (2006), the New York Public Library: Best Books for the Teen Age (2006). In 1992, she was awarded the Elmer Holmes Bobst Award for Emerging Writers (for **Wild Brides**), the Alice Fay DiCastagnola Award for a work-in-progress from the Poetry Society of America in 1993 (for **Housekeeping in a Dream**), and The Juniper Prize (for **Dance and Disappear**) in 2002. She was also awarded a residency at the Salon du Livre at Rennes in 2002.

Her poetry and novels are frequently compared to the work of such literary luminaries as Joyce Carol Oates, Janet Fitch, and Robert Bly, and the work she is currently undertaking will guarantee that her present extraordinary standing will only be enhanced in the years ahead.