



*Excellence In Teaching
Awards Dinner*

April 5, 2022

*W*elcome to the seventeenth annual celebration of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Excellence In Teaching Awards Program. This awards program was created to honor faculty members at our member colleges and universities who demonstrate the highest standards of teaching and encourage students to strive for excellence in their studies and intellectual pursuits. The award is given to one faculty member at each of the twenty-one member colleges and universities. Each recipient was chosen by their institution according to a set of rigorous criteria and will be honored and recognized tonight with a framed award and a \$3,000 grant for professional development.

*S*outh Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Inc. (SCICU) was established in 1953 with the primary mission of promoting independent higher education in South Carolina. SCICU seeks to advance independent higher education through advocacy, fundraising, scholarships, and research, and by facilitating collaborative activities among the twenty-one member institutions. SCICU's institutions of higher learning educate more than 35,000 students each year and reflect important values and diverse missions that are an integral part of American life.

Excellence In Teaching Awards Dinner

*Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
April 5, 2022 ~ 7:00 pm*

Welcome

*Lucy Grey McIver
Chair, SCICU Board of Trustees*

Blessing

*Dr. Dondi Costin
President, Charleston Southern University*

Dinner

*Presentation of
Excellence In Teaching Awards*

*Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez
President & CEO, SCICU*

Concluding Remarks

2022 Dinner Sponsors

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gratitude and appreciation
to the 2022 sponsors:*

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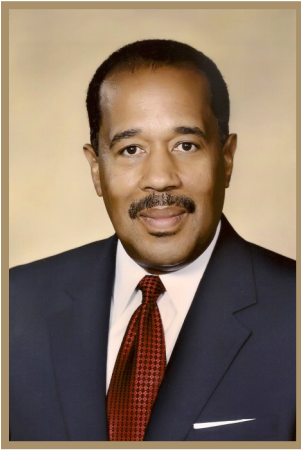
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SCICU Presents 2022 Excellence In Teaching Award Recipients

<i>Allen University</i>	<i>Dr. Daniel T. Hembree</i>
<i>Anderson University</i>	<i>Dr. Joni M. Criswell</i>
<i>Benedict College</i>	<i>Dr. Adrien M. Ratsimbaharison</i>
<i>Bob Jones University</i>	<i>Dr. William P. Lovegrove</i>
<i>Charleston Southern University</i>	<i>Dr. Carissa Turner Smith</i>
<i>Clafflin University</i>	<i>Dr. Mitali P. Wong</i>
<i>Coker University</i>	<i>Dr. Meredith Sims</i>
<i>Columbia College</i>	<i>Dr. Marla S. Sanders</i>
<i>Columbia International University</i>	<i>Dr. Karen Grant</i>
<i>Converse University</i>	<i>Dr. Reed Martin Chewing</i>
<i>Erskine College</i>	<i>Dr. John Harris</i>
<i>Furman University</i>	<i>Dr. Mary Elizabeth Anderson</i>
<i>Limestone University</i>	<i>Dr. Virginia Rackley Scates</i>
<i>Morris College</i>	<i>Ms. Terri L. Kenely</i>
<i>Newberry College</i>	<i>Ms. Aslynn C. Halvorson</i>
<i>North Greenville University</i>	<i>Dr. Christina Eddy</i>
<i>Presbyterian College</i>	<i>Dr. Laura J. Crary</i>
<i>Southern Wesleyan University</i>	<i>Dr. Jeffrey Mohr</i>
<i>Spartanburg Methodist College</i>	<i>Dr. Adam Siegfried</i>
<i>Voorhees College</i>	<i>Dr. Anastasiya Yakunina</i>
<i>Wofford College</i>	<i>Dr. Lori Cruze</i>



Allen University

Dr. Daniel T. Hembree

Dr. Daniel T. Hembree, assistant professor of religion, is the 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient for Allen University. He holds a Ph.D. in religious and theological studies from Northwestern University, an M.Div. in pastoral care and counseling from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston,

Illinois), and a B.A. in biological anthropology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Hembree joined the Allen community in 2017 as the program coordinator for the university's Environmental Justice Institute. In 2018 Hembree was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Religion and brought his 20 years of teaching experience to courses including philosophy, theology, and religious studies.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Hembree's leadership includes serving as the university's ombudsman, on-campus advisor for Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and member of the Student Mental Health Committee. He has also chaired the Conflict Resolution and Grievance Committees. Dr. Hembree's scholarly research and interests examine the anthropological, psychological, and theological dimensions found in traditional African religious thought and culture, and the appropriateness of these resources for the field of pastoral care and counseling in the African-American community. He is the co-author of *You Are The Jewel In The Stone: A Narrative Resource for the Theological Exploration of Vocation*.

Extensive service as a theologian is evident in Dr. Hembree's classroom and faculty leadership. He rigorously challenges students to think seriously about their life purpose and vocation in a rapidly-changing world. His commitment to the well-being of the Allen faculty is demonstrated by his homilies of encouragement given to faculty during monthly meetings.

Dr. Hembree's professional memberships include the Academy of Religion, the Society for the Study of Black Religion, the American Psychological Association, Phi Delta Kappa International, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. He has also co-chaired the Society of Pastoral Theology.



Anderson University

Dr. Joni M. Criswell

Anderson University's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner is **Dr. Joni M. Criswell**, associate professor of biology. She earned a master's degree and doctorate in evolution, ecology, and organismal biology, both from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Criswell joined the Anderson University faculty in 2013. She teaches courses in introductory biology, human anatomy and physiology, comparative vertebrate anatomy and development, animal physiology, animal behavior, and tropical ecology. She has a passion for trying innovative teaching strategies that focus on developing critical thinking skills and project-based learning.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Criswell serves Anderson University as a co-faculty advisor for the Anderson Science Association (a science-based student organization) and is the key advisor for all pre-vet students. She has been named a Digital Learning Innovator by the Anderson University Center for Innovation and Digital Learning. Dr. Criswell chairs the Animal Usage and Welfare committee in addition to serving on other committees.

Dr. Criswell's publications feature *Determination of nocturnal vertical position in a rain forest frog (Atelopus: Bufonidae), using fluorescent pigment (Journal of Herpetology)*. She is a collaborator in the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's Panamanian Golden Frogs Conservation Team.

When asked why she enjoys teaching at Anderson University, Dr. Criswell explains: "I love the energy and enthusiasm of everyone on campus, from the president to the first-semester freshman. It is amazing to work at a place where everyone is interested in how we can best equip the young adults we teach to reach educational goals while providing them ways to help further their spiritual formation in Christ."



Benedict College

Dr. Adrien Ratsimbaharison

Dr. Adrien M. Ratsimbaharison, professor of political science, is Benedict College's SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner for 2022. He holds a Ph.D. in international studies from the University of South Carolina and two degrees in history – an M.A. and a B.A. – both awarded by the University of Madagascar.

At Benedict Dr. Ratsimbaharison integrates his real-life experiences along with those of his students into meaningful classroom discussion and exchange. His experiences as a poor child growing up in Madagascar and his struggle to gain a political, social, and economic foundation in America resonates throughout his teaching. His approach leads naturally to discussions of the values of education, hard work, critical thinking, and citizenship. Dr. Ratsimbaharison encourages students to apply their classroom experiences by participating in service-learning projects in the community that address critical issues.

Dr. Ratsimbaharison has served on the Benedict faculty since 2010. Before joining the Benedict faculty, he also served as associate professor of political science and history for 11 years at Allen University. His international experiences include teaching at the University of Fianarantsoa (Madagascar) and working as a journalist for *Midi-Madagasikara*, a daily newspaper in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Multiple scholarly journals have published Dr. Ratsimbaharison's works, including the *Current Research Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, the *Global Journal of Human-Social Science Research*, the *SSRN Electronic Journal*, and the *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*. He also authored the book *The Political Crisis of March 2009 in Madagascar — A Case Study of Conflict and Conflict Mediation*.



Bob Jones University

Dr. William P. Lovegrove

Dr. William P. Lovegrove, professor of engineering and head of the Engineering Department, is the 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner for Bob Jones University. He holds a Ph.D. in engineering and an M.S. in electrical engineering, both from

Clemson University. Lovegrove also earned a Bachelor of Science in physics from Bob Jones University.

A member of the Bob Jones faculty for more than three decades, Dr. Lovegrove became department head in 2001. He has taught numerous engineering courses, including Microprocessor Interfacing, Computer Systems, and Mechatronics. As a professor with a gift for making complex ideas accessible, his passion is developing effective teaching strategies that optimize student learning. This strength is exemplified in his teaching Essential Science, a core requirement for undergraduate students across all majors. Under his leadership, the Bob Jones engineering program achieved ABET accreditation in 2013, and he serves as an ABET accreditation reviewer.

Dr. Lovegrove enjoys mentoring students and providing opportunities for them to reach their full potential. In fall 2021 he mentored an interdisciplinary group of students through the creation of a proposal for the Elon Musk Foundation's XPRIZE competition. Bob Jones University was one of five universities in the United States awarded a \$100,000 grant for the students to take their concept from proposal to reality.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Lovegrove's research interests include robotics, embedded systems, and engineering education. In addition to his many published technical articles, he holds two U.S. patents. He has also taught engineering courses as an adjunct faculty member at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology in North Korea.



Charleston Southern University

Dr. Carissa Turner Smith

Dr. Carissa Turner Smith is Charleston Southern University's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner. A member of the Charleston Southern faculty since 2008, Dr. Smith is professor of English and serves as the director of the Writing Center. She holds multiple degrees in English - a Ph.D. and an M.A., both conferred by Pennsylvania State University, and a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College.

Dr. Smith's course load features a variety of American literature courses, including Survey of American Literature, Major American Writers to 1865, and Diversity in American Literature. She has also taught the English Capstone course and special topics courses in religion and literature. Dr. Smith has served as Writing Center Director since 2017 and has worked to offer writing tutoring in flexible formats to undergraduate and graduate students.

American literature and Young Adult literature have significant emphasis in Dr. Smith's scholarly publishing. Her book *Cyborg Saints: Religion and Posthumanism in Middle Grade and Young Adult Fiction*, was published by Routledge in 2020. Dr. Smith is the editor of *The Science Fiction of Connie Willis: Doomsday Every Day* (forthcoming from Routledge). She serves as associate editor for Arts and Humanities for the *Christian Scholar's Review* and is vice president of the Conference on Christianity and Literature.

"Students at Charleston Southern University recognize Dr. Carissa Smith's dedication to providing them with world-class learning opportunities," said Dr. Jacqueline Fish, Charleston Southern vice president for Academic Affairs. "Her lectures are inspiring, her publications are highly distinguished, and she is an extremely approachable mentor and champion for student mastery in her courses. Her talent and love for teaching are evident throughout her interactions across campus."



Clafin University

Dr. Mitali P. Wong

Dr. Mitali P. Wong is the 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient for Clafin University. She chairs the Clafin English department and has been a member of the Clafin faculty since 1998. Wong earned multiple

degrees in English – a Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada), an M.A. from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India, and a B.A. from University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India.

Dr. Wong brings international teaching experience from Canada and India to the Clafin classroom. Her research in South Asian literature, 16th and 17th century British Literature, Gender Studies, and Postcolonial Studies adds depth to her teaching. Her philosophy of teaching incorporates a variety of learning styles. She stresses the importance of innovative hands-on, student-generated projects to foster lifelong independent learning. Her lesson plans are crafted to meet the needs of each learning group with the goal of building critical thinking skills. She incorporates intensive writing and research methods into all her courses as a foundation for independent scholarly research in graduate school.

Advisement with frequent conferencing is an important aspect of Dr. Wong's teaching methodology. She is available to students after 5 p.m. and on weekends if needed. Dr. Wong is committed to the belief that nurturing Clafin students in a pleasant and friendly environment builds their trust and self-confidence.

Dr. Wong is an active grant writer and project director for Clafin. Her extensive scholarly presentations and publications include three books: *The English-Language Poetry of South Asians: A Critical Study* (McFarland & Company), *Politics and Tropes in Renaissance History Plays: Understanding Neglected Genre* (Mellen), and *Fiction of South Asians in North America and the Caribbean* (co-authored by Clafin colleague Dr. Zia Hasan, McFarland & Company).



Coker University

Dr. Meredith Sims

Coker University's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner is **Dr. Meredith Sims**, an associate professor of dance and coordinator of the university's dance and dance education programs. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A., both in dance education from the

University of Kentucky. She also earned a bachelor's degree in dance with a concentration in jazz dance from the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her areas of emphasis include dance pedagogy, applied dance science and injury prevention, and jazz dance.

With her experience as a dance educator, choreographer, and researcher, Dr. Sims drew on her background and certification as a K-12 certified dance educator to bring the K-12 certification program in dance education to Coker. Her continued dedication to dance education access throughout South Carolina earned her the South Carolina Dance Association Arts Advocacy Award and the Ray Doughty Arts Integration Award.

Dr. Sims' choreography has been featured in numerous musicals at Coker. Her work has also been performed in the Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert.

Serving on the editorial review boards for three dance education journals highlights Dr. Sims' professional involvement outside Coker. Her research has been published in the *Journal of Dance Education*, the *Journal of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance*, and *Research in Dance Education*. She is recognized for numerous presentations to professional dance, theatre, and health education organizations in South Carolina and nationally.



Columbia College

Dr. Marla S. Sanders

Dr. Marla S. Sanders, associate professor of education and chair of the Middle Level Education Program, is Columbia College's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient. She holds a doctorate in educational research and policy analysis from North Carolina State

University. Dr. Sanders also earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia College.

Dr. Sanders is recognized for her work as director of Columbia's Alternative Pathways to Educator Certification (APEC). This teacher certification program recruits, prepares, and retains quality teachers in critical-need schools and districts in South Carolina. APEC offers an innovative certification alternative that incorporates a year-long teacher residency with compensation, mentoring, and graduate coursework. In recognition of its effectiveness in improving student outcomes in public schools, the APEC program was a finalist for the 2020 Riley Institute WhatWorksSC Award for its effectiveness in improving student outcomes in public schools.

School policies and practices that negatively impact students in ethnic and cultural minority groups highlight Dr. Sanders' research interests. Her scholarly research has been published in the *Journal of Latinos and Education*, *Canadian Journal of Action Research*, and *Multicultural Learning and Teaching (MLT)*.

Professional memberships held by Dr. Sanders include the South Carolina Association of Teacher Educators (SCATE) and the South Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education. In 2018, Dr. Sanders wrote the College and Career Clubs curriculum for the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships. This college and career readiness curriculum is used in 1,200 schools located in 35 states.



Columbia International University

Dr. Karen Grant

Dr. Karen Grant is Columbia International University's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in leadership from Columbia International

University, an M.A. in ministry from Moody Bible Institute, an M.A. in education (school counseling) from California State University-Stanislaus, and a B.A. in recreation administration from California State University-Chico.

Dr. Grant joined the CIU faculty in 2001 and teaches in the Youth Ministry, Family, and Culture department. Her course load spanning more than two decades includes courses on ministry programming and administration, camp and retreat management, cross-cultural ministry, and youth and family ministry.

Before joining CIU, Dr. Grant served as the director of student activities at California State University-Stanislaus. She then accepted the call to serve full-time in youth ministry in Rockford, Illinois.

As a licensed minister, Dr. Grant serves as youth pastor and college ministry director at Temple Zion Baptist Church in Columbia. She also serves as vice chair on the board of Bethel Christian Camp in Lexington County. Dr. Grant's international ministry includes mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Honduras and youth ministries in South Africa, Kenya, and the Philippines.

Dr. Grant has a passion for mentoring college students and training the next generation of youth workers. She visits her student interns, regularly has lunch with her students on campus, and has them over to her home for cookouts.



Converse University

Dr. Reed Martin Chewning

Dr. Reed Martin Chewning, associate professor of education, is the 2022 Excellence In Teaching recipient for Converse University. She holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Clemson

University, a Master of Arts in teaching from Converse University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English and art history from Wofford College.

Before joining the Converse faculty in 2015, Dr. Chewning was an award-winning English professor at Limestone University. Dr. Chewning currently chairs the Converse Education Department and serves as director and advisor for the Middle Level and Secondary Education programs, the director of clinical experiences, and coordinator of the Master's Series program. Her other faculty leadership roles include service on the Intercollegiate Athletics and Academics Committee, faculty advisor for the swim team, and faculty mentor for new faculty and coaches.

Dr. Chewning's course load includes secondary and middle level methods courses, literature for the child, secondary and middle level clinical, middle level philosophy and school organization, adolescent development, and assessment and pedagogy. She facilitates a Praxis tutoring program to work one-on-one with teacher candidates from all programs in preparation for required admission and teaching certification exams.

Outside the classroom Dr. Chewning's professional board memberships include the S.C. Association of Teacher Educators (past president) and the S.C. Professors of Middle-Level Educators. Her research, presentations, and publications include student-centered instructional practices, technology integration, and literacy strategies for middle-level and secondary education.



Erskine College

Dr. John Harris

Erskine College's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner is **Dr. John Harris**. As the McDonald-Boswell Chair in History, Dr. Harris teaches classes in American and World History. Originally from Northern Ireland, Dr.

Harris earned B.A. and M.A. degrees at Queen's University in Belfast before emigrating to the United States and completing a Ph.D. in history at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Harris joined the Erskine College faculty in 2017. His positive contributions in the classroom were quickly recognized in 2020 with the Younts Excellence in Teaching Award.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic shaped Dr. Harris' instruction to help students develop skills in quantitative and qualitative analysis. Early in 2020, as classes moved to an online format, Harris assigned his Contemporary Global Issues students a "COVID-19 journal," with entries including analyses of data from the Johns Hopkins pandemic website, summaries of news articles, and personal reflections. "I wanted students to have a contemporary record of this important moment and how they experienced it," Harris said.

Dr. Harris' research focuses on U.S. connections to the wider world in the 19th century. His first book, *The Last Slave Ships: New York and the End of the Middle Passage*, was published by Yale University Press in 2020. Other publications include an article on financing illegal slaving voyages in the *Journal of Global History*, op-eds for *Smithsonian Magazine*, and other pieces for History.com and *The Washington Post*. He has created a digital exhibit on the slave trade that has been widely used in classrooms.



Furman University

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Anderson

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Anderson, associate professor of chemistry, is Furman University's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient. She earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at Pennsylvania State University and a B.S. in chemistry at

Samford University.

Following postdoctoral research at Boston University, Pennsylvania State University, and UCLA, Dr. Anderson began her teaching career at independent liberal arts institutions in 2010 at Hope College in Michigan. She joined the Furman faculty in Fall 2018.

Dr. Anderson teaches general, analytical, and inorganic chemistry courses and trains undergraduate students in an active research group that investigates the bottom-up assembly of thin films and nanomaterials. In her courses and research lab, she encourages students to ask clarifying and probing questions while providing them with structured guidance to approach strategically problems through logical analysis. Dr. Anderson received the Henry Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award in 2019 in recognition of her devotion to both teaching and research.

For her courses, Dr. Anderson has instituted peer-partnered learning programs, developed teaching lab experiences and infrastructure, and created engaged learning activities relevant for lecture and lab. During her time at Furman, she has developed and led departmental programming for chemistry majors to help prepare them for their post-college careers.

In the research lab, Dr. Anderson's students are actively involved in NSF-funded research at all stages of the process from data collection and analysis to dissemination of results. As a professor, she has mentored 36 research students, published 11 papers with 25 student coauthors, and had 59 external student research presentations. This Spring, she and her undergraduate researcher received the American Chemical Society's Division of Inorganic Chemistry Award for Undergraduate Research.



Limestone University

Dr. Virginia Rackley Scates

The 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient for Limestone University is **Dr. Virginia Rackley Scates**. Serving Limestone as assistant professor of elementary education, Dr. Scates holds an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from Gardner-Webb University, an M.Ed. in early childhood education from Converse University, and a B.S. in elementary education, early childhood education, and special education from Lander University.

A member of Limestone University's faculty since 2018, Dr. Scates' leadership positions include chair of the Education and Kinesiology department, coordinator of the elementary education program, and director of the Teacher Leadership M.Ed. Program. She is involved on campus as part of the Global Experiences, Teacher Education Program, and Graduate Studies Committees.

A 20-year National Board-certified teacher, Dr. Scates continues to be active in Cherokee County schools, the S.C. State Department of Education, and on the national level as she collaborates with National Board-certified teachers, practicing teachers, and various education stakeholders.

Limestone recognized Dr. Scates' contributions with the 2021 Fullerton Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award. Prior to joining the Limestone faculty, Dr. Scates' recognitions include Cherokee County District Teacher of the Year, Reading Association Teacher of the Year, and she is a five-time recipient of the Donor's Choose grant.

"Dr. Scates is the type of faculty member who is willing to go to the ends of the earth to help and guide our students," said Limestone University President Dr. Darrell Parker. "She is the perfect role model for future educators. She exemplifies qualities that every educator should strive to have. We are truly fortunate to have her as a part of the Limestone family."



Morris College

Ms. Terri L. Kenely

Ms. Terri L. Kenely, instructor of mathematics, is the 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner for Morris College. She earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and a Master of Education in mathematics education, both from Clemson University.

A lifelong educator, Ms. Kenely taught mathematics for 22 years in South Carolina public schools. She has also served as an adjunct mathematics professor at Clemson University, Central Carolina Technical College, and the University of South Carolina-Sumter.

Ms. Kenely has been a member of the Morris College faculty for five years. Her course load includes developmental mathematics, college algebra, trigonometry, and mathematics education. Colleagues note that Ms. Kenely's teaching philosophy, approach and methods contribute significantly to Morris' first-year students making substantial gains in their readiness for college-level mathematics. She is also recognized for major contributions in the recent redesign of the assessment system for mathematics and the overall general education program.

In addition to teaching at Morris, Ms. Kenely provides standardized test preparation services and tutoring in mathematics and science for high school students. For almost 10 years, Ms. Kenely has operated the Kenely Institute of Math and Science with the goal of fostering love and appreciation of the sciences. Her company provides weekly tutoring services and focuses on STEM projects to help students develop critical thinking skills for career exploration and development.

Ms. Kenely holds professional memberships in the S. C. Education Association and the S. C. Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Her civic involvement includes Sumter's North Main Civic Association and volunteering with the Samaritan Homeless Shelter program.



Newberry College

*Ms. Aslynn C.
Halvorson*

Ms. Aslynn Halvorson, assistant professor of exercise science and human performance, is Newberry College's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching Award winner. As an Ed.D. candidate at the University of

North Carolina-Greensboro, she is conducting research investigating concussion recovery experiences of female collegiate athletes. She holds an M.S. in exercise physiology and B.S. in kinesiology, both from the University of Tennessee. While at the University of Tennessee, Ms. Halvorson researched the influences of physical activity on cognition in elementary-aged students.

Ms. Halvorson joined the Newberry College faculty in 2019. She teaches a variety of courses in exercise physiology, kinesiology, biomechanics, strength and conditioning, and exercise diagnosis and prescription. Her other academic interests include return-to-learn concussion policies, experiences during concussion recovery, and strength acquisition and weightlifting in young athletes. Her faculty leadership roles include serving as faculty co-advisor for the Society of Sport Professions, coordinator for the Exercise Science program, and as a member of the SafetyNET Taskforce in association with the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina.

Outside the classroom, Halvorson serves as a liaison to and Highland Games Athlete for the Southeastern Highland Athletics and Games Association. She also volunteers with track and field and Scottish Heritage events across the United States.



North Greenville University

Dr. Christina Eddy

Dr. Christina K. Eddy, professor of biology, is North Greenville University's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner. She earned a Ph.D. in molecular biology at Marquette University and bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry at Cornell College (Iowa).

A 30-year teaching and research professional, Dr. Eddy has been a member of the North Greenville faculty since 2005. Her prior teaching experience includes positions at Mississippi State University, Skidmore College, and Red Rocks Community College. Currently a consulting scientist for Aglife, LLC, Dr. Eddy previously conducted research for Zeagen Biotech and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

At North Greenville, Dr. Eddy primarily teaches microbiology, cell and molecular biology, introductory biology, and creation, faith, and science. She incorporates research opportunities into laboratory courses and mentors seven to 10 students doing independent research projects each semester.

Dr. Eddy serves on the Institutional Review Board and is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a women educators' honor society. Next year she will serve as the second vice president of the local Delta Kappa Gamma chapter.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Eddy has led six teams of students on mission trips -- two to India, two to Costa Rica, and two to eastern Kentucky. On these mission trips, students were provided opportunities to share their knowledge of science and their faith by teaching science lessons in schools and training families to purify water with seeds. Dr. Eddy is thankful to share her faith and experiences with students at North Greenville University.



Presbyterian College

Dr. Laura J. Crary

Dr. Laura Crary, art history professor and chair of the Presbyterian College Art Department, is the college's SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner for 2022. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A, both in art history and awarded by the University of Pittsburgh. Her B.F.A. in studio art, including printmaking, fibers, and ceramics, was conferred by Ohio University. Dr. Crary also earned a graduate certificate in Latin American studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

A 20-year member of the Presbyterian faculty, Dr. Crary was the college's first full-time art history professor. She regularly mentors students who conduct art research and present their findings at PC's annual Honors Day Symposium. In addition to a variety of art history classes, Dr. Crary's course load includes introductory courses in Latin American Studies and Women and Gender Studies.

Dr. Crary travels extensively for academic and research purposes. Her PC Maymester trips have included visits to art museums, churches, and galleries in Italy, Spain, England, Cuba, and Greece. Dr. Crary has led numerous domestic art department trips for students to New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, which was her home for over 30 years. All of her travels aim to show students the vast cultural riches of the world.

Dr. Crary's professional memberships include the College Art Association, the Association for Latin American Art, and the Southeast American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.



Southern Wesleyan University

Dr. Jeffrey Mohr

Dr. Jeffrey Mohr, associate professor of biology, is the 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient for Southern Wesleyan University. He earned a Ph.D. in wildlife and fisheries biology from Clemson University. His doctoral research focused on tracking timber rattlesnakes via implanted radio transmitters with Table Rock State Park as the primary field site. Dr. Mohr also earned an M.S. in zoology from Oklahoma State University and a B.S. in biology from Furman University.

At SWU Dr. Mohr teaches a variety of ecological and organismal courses. As a Clemson University adjunct professor he teaches a class in herpetology. During 2021, he mentored a Southern Wesleyan student in the SCICU Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research Program (“Movement and Behavioral Patterns of Northern Water Snakes in South Carolina Riverine Systems and Man-Made Bodies of Water”).

Dr. Mohr offers full immersion study-away opportunities and has taken students to Yosemite, Zion, and Grand Canyon National Parks to explore the unique ecological systems of these regions. He also leads students on field trips throughout South Carolina to acquire hands-on knowledge of the organisms and ecosystems present in the state.

Colleagues say it best regarding the nomination of Dr. Mohr for the SCICU Excellence In Teaching award: “This professor cares for his students! Dr. Mohr uses his own educational journey to encourage the students to identify their goals and work to achieve them. His enthusiasm for the topics in the classroom is contagious. And the better students get to know Dr. Mohr, the more they love him. These are all hallmarks of an amazing teacher and mentor who impacts students’ lives beyond the classroom. Our department is so thankful for his work.”

Outside higher education, Dr. Mohr’s employment has included Tropical Reptile Keeper at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden and rattlesnake surgeon.



Spartanburg Methodist College

Dr. Adam Siegfried

Chemistry professor **Dr. Adam Siegfried** is the 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner for Spartanburg Methodist College. He holds a Ph.D. in solid state chemistry and supramolecular chemistry and an M.S. in inorganic chemistry, both conferred by Clemson University. Dr. Siegfried also earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Coker University.

Dr. Siegfried currently chairs the Spartanburg Methodist Department of Science and Health. In addition to his many curricular and scholarly activities, he currently serves as the Awards Committee chair and the advisor for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Additional faculty leadership positions include serving on the Faculty Steering Committee.

Dr. Siegfried's continued research with crystalline structures has produced significant collaborative research opportunities for students through summer programs at Furman University and Clemson University. The COVID-19 pandemic made his strong commitment to teaching clearly evident through his efforts to continue making laboratory opportunities available to students in innovative ways.

In 2020 Dr. Siegfried received the Exemplary Teaching Award from the United Methodist Church. The annual award is given to an SMC faculty member who exemplifies excellence in teaching and a commitment to service of students and community.

“Dr. Siegfried is the epitome of hard work and dedication,” said Dr. Kim Duckett, SMC professor of biology. “He often is the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave in the evening. Despite his administrative and teaching responsibilities, he always finds the time to answer questions and offers advice and guidance as needed, for both his colleagues and his students.”



Voorhees College

Dr. Anastasiya Yakunina

The Voorhees College 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award winner is **Dr. Anastasiya Yakunina**, associate professor of mathematics. She holds a Ph.D.

in mathematical education from the Moscow State Institute of Culture, as well as master's and bachelor's degrees in mathematics, both awarded by the State University of Cyril and Methodius in Macedonia.

Dr. Yakunina has been a member of the Voorhees faculty for nearly five years. Her 14 years of teaching experience include courses in college algebra, pre-calculus, calculus, linear algebra, discrete mathematics, probability and statistics, and analytical geometry. She currently serves as the director of the Voorhees STEM club, which was established to improve students' academic performance and retention in STEM disciplines.

Throughout her career, Dr. Yakunina has worked to develop techniques to increase the effectiveness of teaching mathematics at the undergraduate level, focusing on the needs of students who did not acquire the requisite math skills in their previous schooling. At Voorhees she has created an original method for teaching fractions that has improved average student grades by 36 percent.

Prior to joining the Voorhees faculty, Dr. Yakunina taught pre-calculus, calculus, probability, and linear algebra at St. Petersburg Mining University in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Yakunina is the author of 32 publications on mathematics education, with five of them published in leading peer-reviewed research journals.



Wofford College

Dr. Lori Cruze

Dr. Lori Cruze, assistant professor of biology, is the 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient for Wofford College. She earned a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Florida and a B.S. in zoology from the University of Tennessee. Before joining the faculty at Wofford in 2015, she

worked at the Medical University of South Carolina as a postdoctoral fellow and research assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Caring deeply for her students, Dr. Cruze strives to foster an inclusive learning environment where all students feel a sense of belonging. Her Wofford courses include biological inquiry, genetics, human physiology, and comparative reproductive biology. She is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in education and is a 2021 Wofford Teaching for Equity Fellow.

Cruze is a reproductive biologist who recently published articles on the effects of prenatal exposure to endocrine-disrupting contaminants on human development. This collaborative research appeared in the journals *Environmental Research*, *Chemosphere*, *Environmental International*, and *Prenatal Diagnosis*. Dr. Cruze considers mentoring students in research one of her greatest joys. With the help of her students, she is currently researching the reproduction and survival of songbirds in the Upstate.

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