



In 2015, I was immensely honored to receive the campus-wide Distinguished Teaching Award.

With my Chair, Penny Remsen, at the Awards Dinner.

Story on The College of Humanities and Fine Arts' webpage.

<https://www.umass.edu/hfa/news/theater-professor-megan-lewis-receives-umass-distinguished-teaching-award>



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Theater Professor Megan Lewis receives UMass Distinguished Teaching Award

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Monday, March 30, 2015

The College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Department of Theater are proud to announce that Professor Megan Lewis has received the UMass Distinguished Teaching Award, a university-wide honor granted to only a select handful of faculty members annually. Lewis is the first member of the theater faculty to receive the award since the late Doris Abramson, a department founding member, received it in 1978.

Lewis, who joined the department in the 2011-2012 school year, received the award on the strength of her passion and skill for teaching both general education and advanced theater courses, her embrace of modern technologies to engage students, and a breadth of course topics that ranges from the arts in South Africa to drama and the media. Student reviews of her classes consistently speak to her enthusiasm and also mention the way Lewis successfully encourages students to engage with potentially intimidating or hot-button topics. "Professor Lewis made this class of 80 feel like a class of 20," one student said.



Megan is a consummate teacher, an inspiration in her classrooms who is always committed to honing her skills so that she can impact each new generation of students. She has curricular vision and has developed some thrilling new courses for our department and this university. It is an incredible honor for a pre-tenure faculty member like Professor Lewis receive this award. I believe it stands as an exemplar of how faculty in the arts can make a significant and impactful difference in the lives of the students on this campus and I offer her my congratulations.

Lewis originally hails from South Africa but has lived in the United States for many years. She came to UMass Amherst by way of Minnesota; she received her PhD in theater from the University of Minnesota, where she also taught theater, media and film courses for several years. Lewis's areas of interest as a teacher and scholar include the staging of national identity, gender, and race in a variety of performance media—including monuments and public pageants, traditional staged texts, and documentary and narrative films. Her book *Magnet Theatre: Three Decades of Making Space* a collection of essays and interviews about Cape Town-based Magnet Theatre's 25 years of theatremaking in South Africa she is co-editing with Anton Krueger of Rhodes University, is due out in early 2016 from Intellect Books and UNISA (Univ of South Africa). A manuscript, *A Whitely Nation: Performing and Reforming the Afrikaner in South African Theatrical and Public Life*, is currently in review.

Honoring individual excellence, the campus-wide Distinguished Teaching Award is highly competitive and prestigious. Only current students and alumni may nominate faculty for this award. Each year faculty, graduate, and undergraduate student committees review more than 100 nominations in a two-step process of data collection and analysis prior to selecting three faculty and two teaching assistant awardees. Recipients receive a monetary prize and are recognized at both the undergraduate and graduate commencements.

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Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA)

The Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA) honors exemplary teaching at UMass Amherst.

The Distinguished Teaching Award (**DTA**) honors exemplary teaching at the highest institutional level. Award recipients receive a monetary prize, and their names are inscribed on the DTA memorial wall in the Integrative Learning Center. Faculty recipients are awarded \$3,500, and graduate students are awarded \$2,000.

The review committees comprising of past DTA winners (faculty and graduate teaching assistants) review nominations in a two-step process prior to selecting five faculty (three tenure-track and two non-tenure-track) and two graduate teaching assistant awardees.

Eligibility

Tenure-track faculty, non-tenure-track faculty, and graduate teaching assistants who are the instructor-of-record are eligible for this highly-competitive award. Graduate and undergraduate students may nominate any instructor they have previously taken a course with or an instructor with whom they are currently enrolled in a course. Faculty may submit nominations for graduate teaching assistants.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Please review our [DTA FAQ page](#) for more information about the nomination process, finalist materials, the committee review process and more.

Upload DTA Finalist Materials

The deadline for DTA Finalists to submit materials has passed (**Friday, January 13, 2023 at 11:59 PM EST**)

Letters of Support from students and department heads and chairs are due by **Friday, February 3, 2023 at 11:59 PM EST.**

Submit a Letter of Support for a DTA Finalist

Previous DTA Winners

[DTA Previous DTA Winners \(Current-2010\)](#)

Please contact dta@umass.edu with any questions.

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Previous DTA Winners

Faculty Awards

2021–2022

- Jennifer Fronc (History)
- Beth Jakob (Biology)
- Caleb Rounds (Biology)
- Mazen Nous (English)

2020–2021

- Melissa A. Baker (Hospitality & Tourism Management)
- R. Mark Leckie (Geosciences)
- Lisa Modenos (University without Walls)
- Rae Walker (Nursing)

2019–2020

- Anne Broadbridge (History)
- Ramesh Sitaraman (Information & Computer Sciences)
- Leah Wing (Political Science)
- Tilman Wolf (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

2018–2019

- Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson (Biostatistics & Epidemiology)
- Nancy Noble (History of Art & Architecture)
- Kimberlee Perez (Communication)
- Charles Weems (Information & Computer Sciences)

2017–2018

- Asha Nadkarni (English)
- Jeffrey Podos (Biology)
- William Verts (Information & Computer Sciences)
- Kathryn Young (Sociology)

2016–2017

- Scott Auerbach (Chemistry)
- Jeffrey Davis (Chemical Engineering)
- Nathan Schnarr (Chemistry)
- Ian Walsh (Management)

2015–2016

- Katherine Beltaire (Veterinary & Animal Sciences)
- Claudio Moreira (Communication)
- David McLaughlin (Electric and Computer Engineering)
- Teresa Ramsby (Classics)

2014–2015

- Lorraine Cordeiro (Nutrition)
- William Leonard (Electric and Computer Engineering)
- Megan Lewis (Theater)
- Dhandapani Venkataraman (Chemistry)

2013–2014

- Andy Danylchuk (Environmental Conservation)
- Heath Hatch (Physics)
- Ruth Jennison (English)

- Lynn Klock (Music & Dance)

2012–2013

- Christian Appy (History)
- Catherine Benincasa (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Elizabeth Connor (Biology)
- Robert Nakosteen (Operations & Information Management)

2011–2012

- Justin Fermann (Chemistry)
- Linda Isbell (Psychological & Brain Sciences)
- Stephen Purdy (Veterinary & Animal Sciences)
- Thomas Vacanti (Music & Dance)

2010–2011

- Carey Dimmitt (Student Development)
- Farshid Hajir (Mathematics & Statistics)
- Mako Koyama-Hartsfield (Asian Languages)
- Jillian Schwedler (Political Science)

2009–2010

- Michael Barnes (Chemistry)
- Joseph Black (English)
- Shelley Velleman (Communication Disorders)
- Michael Whiteman (Accounting)

2008–2009

- Scott Garman (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology)
- Thomas Hannum (Music & Dance)
- Eileen Hayes (Nursing)
- John McCarthy (Linguistics)

2007-2008

- Zane Barlow (Biology)
- John Gerber (Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences)
- Richard Minear (History)
- Wilmore Webley (Microbiology)

2006-2007

- Guy Blaylock (Physics)
- Barry Braun (Kinesiology)
- Dennis Goeckel (Electrical & Computer Engineering)

2005-2006

- Neal Anderson (Electrical & Computer Engineering)
- Walter Denny (Art History)
- Randall Phillis (Biology)

2004-2005

- Naomi Gerstel (Sociology)
- Robert Marx (Management)
- Nicolas McBride (Communication)

2003-2004

- David Adams (Chemistry)
- Hanlyn Davies (Art)
- Emma Rivera-Rabago (Spanish & Portuguese)

2002-2003

- Carlin Barton (History)
- Ray Pfeiffer (Accounting)
- Glenn Wong (Sport Management)

2001-2002

- Alexandrina Deschamps (Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies)
- Michael Morgan (Communication)
- Ronald Story (History)

2000-2001

- Robert Faulkner (Sociology)
- Robert Sullivan (Germanic Languages & Literatures)
- Susan Whitbourne (Psychology)

1999-2000

- Sut Jhally (Communication)
- Marios Philippides (Classics)
- William Vining (Chemistry)

1998-1999

- Mzamo Mangaliso (Management)
- Stella Volpe (Nutrition)
- Michael Williams (Geosciences)

1997-1998

- Laurie Godfrey (Anthropology)
- Robert Hallock (Physics & Astronomy)
- Stephen Resnick (Economics)

1996-1997

- David Arnold (Psychology)
- Nina Scott (Spanish & Portuguese)

- Anne Simon (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology)
- Richard Yarde (Art)

1995-1996

- Deborah Carlin (English)
- Michael Malone (Chemical Engineering)
- Gail Schumann (Plant Pathology)
- David Van Blerkom (Astronomy)

1994-1995

- Robert Ackermann (Philosophy)
- Margo Culley (English)
- Richard Rogers (Resource Economics)

1993-1994

- William Bramlage (Plant & Soil Sciences)
- Ronnie Janoff-Bulman (Psychology)
- Paula Stamps (Public Health)

1992-1993

- Robert French (English)
- Karen List (Journalism)
- T. Michael Peters (Entomology)

1991-1992

- Walter Chestnut (Music & Dance)
- Fred Feldman (Philosophy)
- George Howe (Veterinary & Animal Sciences)

1990-1991

- Martha Olney (Economics)
- Josephine Ryan (Nursing)
- Charles Smith (English)

1989-1990

- Frank Kaminsky (Industrial Engineering)
- Arthur Kinney (English)
- Jerome Myers (Psychology)

1988-1989

- Susan Cocalis (Germanic Languages)
- Adnan Hayder (Judaic & Near Eastern Studies)
- George Parks (Music & Dance)

1987-1988

- Dorrance Hill (Afro-American Studies)
- Richard Konicek (Education)
- Howard Peters (Public Health)

1986-1987

- Portia Elliot (Education)
- Bernard Morzuch (Resource Economics)
- Fred Robinson (English)

1985-1986

- John Chandler (Chemistry)
- Judith Goodenough (Zoology)
- Charlotte Spivack (English)

1984-1985

- J. Nicholas Filler (General Business & Finance)
- Louis Greenbaum (History)
- Clement Seldin (Education)

1983-1984

- Andy Anderson (Sociology)
- Julius Lester (Afro-American Studies)
- Seymour Shapiro (Botany)

1982-1983

- Richard Halgin (Psychology)
- Earl McWhorter (Chemistry)
- Richard Simpson (Accounting)

1981-1982

- Alexander Chajes (Civil Engineering)
- Charles Moran (English)
- Curtis Thorne (Microbiology)

1980-1981

- Stephen Oates (History)
- David Schuman (Education)
- Richard Wolff (Economics)

1979-1980

- Joyce Berman (History)
- Arnold Friedmann (Art)
- F. Fernandez Turienzo (Spanish)

1978-1979