

Awards Ceremony Highlights International Achievers

Eleven MSU faculty, staff, alumni, and students, as well as a fine arts camp director in Twin Lake, MI, were honored at ISP's 17th annual International Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, March 21. ISP Acting Dean Jeffrey Riedinger gave opening remarks, lauding the extraordinary contributions of these "individuals who have helped to make MSU a university of international distinction and whose involvements have enriched the campus, the state of Michigan, and the world."

President Lou Anna K. Simon and Provost Kim A. Wilcox were among others who spoke during the ceremony.

Honorees ranged from an alumnus who is the governor of Bank Indonesia, to faculty members doing important work in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, to students and a retiree whose efforts have fostered the internationalization of the campus and surrounding community.

The event has been sponsored annually since 1991 by the MSU Office of International Studies and Programs to bring together MSU faculty, staff, students, community volunteers, and others from the wider Michigan community to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions toward international understanding.

This year's recipients and their awards are listed below.

Jianguo (Jack) Liu, an expert on the state of the world's environmental resources, particularly well known for his work that couples human and natural systems, received the Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs at MSU. He holds the Rachel Carson Chair in Ecological Sustainability, is a University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and directs the newly founded Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability.

David Robinson, University Distinguished Professor of History and African Studies at MSU, also received the Smuckler Award. He has taught at MSU since 1978 and has made a signal contribution to the study of African history with research in francophone Africa for almost 50 years. He has mentored scores of graduate students from the United States and abroad, facilitated exchanges between MSU and a major partner university in Senegal, and been a pioneer in developing African history on the Internet.

Burhanuddin Abdullah, governor of Bank Indonesia and chair of the Indonesian Economic Association, received the Joon S. Moon Distinguished International Alumni Award. He received his M.A. degree in economics from MSU in 1984. He was appointed governor of the International Monetary Fund for Indonesia, represents Indonesia at the Asian Development Bank, and serves on the advisory board of Green Earth Foundation.

Gretchen Birbeck, associate professor in the Departments of Neurology and Ophthalmology and director of the International Neurological and Psychiatric Epidemiology Program, was selected for this year's John K. Hudzik Emerging Leader in Advancing International Studies and Programs Award. As a clinical investigator, Birbeck serves six months each year in the African countries of Malawi and Zambia, conducting research studies on cerebral malaria and AIDS.

Peter R. LaPine, associate professor in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, received a Special Recognition Award. For the past several years, he has organized and led groups of students, alumni, and healthcare professionals, including MSU and adjunct faculty members, on missions to Mexico, treating people in poor communities for various ailments related to speech and hearing.

Rhonda Crackel, academic specialist in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, received the MSU Award for Outstanding Service to Study Abroad. She is co-founder and lead instructor of the International Food Laws study abroad program. Her dedication and commitment have sustained this highly successful program, now in its 12th year.

Rui M. S. Bonfica, who recently earned his Ph.D. in agricultural economics, was this year's recipient of the Gill-Chin Lim Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Global Studies. Bonfica's dissertation, "An Analysis of Income Poverty Effects in Cash Cropping Economics in Mozambique: Blending Econometric and Economy-Wide Models," has already had policy effects in Mozambique, where he currently works for the World Bank.

Gretchen Kuschinski Stansell, founding director of the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp International Exchange Program, received the Glen L. Taggart

Award for Community Contribution to International Understanding. Through her efforts spanning four decades, nearly 30,000 European, Asian and American young artists have had the opportunity to participate in the camp's unique cultural and musical exchange.

Three students and one community member received the Homer Higbee International Education Award for making significant contributions to the enhancement of international communication, understanding, and cooperation at MSU through service activities.

The student Higbee awardees were:

Eric Burham Bailey, a Jamaican graduate student in the Department of Agricultural Economics, who was the founder and first president of the Caribbean Students Association and currently serves as the president of MSU's International Students Association; **Kristin Janka Millar**, a doctoral student in the Department of Teacher Education, coordinated a Fulbright-Hays study tour in Belize in 2005 and has been deeply involved at many levels in bringing a global perspective to K-12 education in the Greater Lansing community; and **Norseha Unin**, a Malaysian doctoral student in Educational Administration, whose involvements in a variety of campus and community organizations and activities have contributed greatly to cross-cultural education.

Peggy Arbanas was the recipient of the Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP) Homer Higbee Award. She served as an adviser in the MSU Office for International Students and Scholars for 24 years and was the key link between MSU's international students and the community. She has continued to play a major role in CVIP since retiring from MSU in 2005.

In concluding the ceremony, Riedinger said, "Events here and abroad remind us just how tightly knit our global community is, how much events far away can impact us, and how we, in turn, can impact the rest of the world. Now, especially, is the time to rededicate ourselves to MSU's historic commitment to supporting internationalization."

For more information about the awards, visit the website at <http://isp.msu.edu/iac>

Jianguo (Jack) Liu, (Left) University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, was one of two recipients of the Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs at MSU.



David Robinson (Right), University Distinguished Professor of History and African Studies, also received the Ralph H. Smuckler Award for Advancing International Studies and Programs at MSU.

Burhanuddin Abdullah (front row center, wearing glasses), governor of Bank Indonesia and chair of the Indonesian Economic Association, received the Joon S. Moon Distinguished International Alumni Award. He traveled from Indonesia to receive the award, accompanied by his wife (standing on his left), several Bank Indonesia colleagues, and other Indonesian alumni.



Rhonda Crackel (left), academic specialist in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, received the MSU Award for Outstanding Service to Study Abroad. Presenting the award was Cindy Chalou, associate director of the Office of Study Abroad.



Norseha Unin (left), a Malaysian doctoral student in educational administration, was one of four winners of the Homer Higbee International Education Award. Presenting the award was Peter Briggs, director of the Office for International Students and Scholars.

