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February and March 2018 archived news items

Dr. Feffer awarded Kennedy Center Gold Medallion for Excellence

Contact: [Diana Hearit](#)

Feb. 5, 2018

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Faculty and Student Awards

English Department faculty member **Dr. Steve Feffer** was awarded the Gold Medallion for Excellence in Theatre Education from the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana on January 13th, 2018. Professor Feffer, who has been at WMU for fourteen years, is a professionally produced and published playwright who primarily teaches courses in playwriting and dramatic literature.

In addition, three English Department graduate playwriting students claimed regional and national awards at the same Kennedy Center Festival. Darcy Sturges (MFA) is a national semi-finalist for her ten minute play "Fatberg"; Amber Palmer is a national semi-finalist, also in the ten-minute play category for "The Speedy Gonzales Turtle Sanctuary"; and Tucker Rafferty (MFA) is a national semi-finalist in the one act play category "Just Suppose". In addition Darcy Sturges is a national finalist for the Planet Earth Award for a new play that explores sustainability with "Fatberg". Of the six new play awards given at the festival four were for WMU playwrights, whose work was selected from over 120 plays from college-age playwrights in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana. These plays are now under consideration for further development at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.

Started in 1969 by Roger L. Stevens, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Art's founding chairman, the Kennedy Center American College Theater (KCACTF) is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide which has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States.

KCACTF has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents.

About the Gold Medallion Award: According to the Kennedy Center: "Each year, the eight KCACTF regions honor individuals or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theatre and who have significantly dedicated their time, artistry and enthusiasm to the development of the **Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival**. Most importantly, recipients have demonstrated a strong commitment to the values and goals of KCACTF and to excellence in educational theatre. It is the most prestigious regional award given by KCACTF and is considered one of the great honors in theatre education".

Source: Steve Feffer, professor, English, steve.feffer@wmich.edu

Contact if questions: **Molly Goaley**, marketing specialist, College Arts and Sciences

Distinguished Research and Creative Scholarship Awards

Contact: [Diana Hearit](#)

March 8, 2018

2018 WINNERS

This award recognized faculty members who demonstrate national and global excellence in research and scholarship and lead advances in a specific discipline.

- [Wendy Beane](#), biological sciences
- [Elena Litvinova](#), physics
- [Patricia Reeves](#) and [Jianping Shen](#), educational leadership, research and technology
- [Fahad Saeed](#), computer science and electrical and computer engineering

grantforward

Contact: [Diana Hearit](#)

March 28, 2018



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—WMU has now entered a long term agreement with GrantForward Funding Opportunity Search and Recommendation service, which is open to all members of our institution.

GrantForward offers a database of grants from over 12,000 sponsors, which is updated daily. Search for grants by keywords and advanced filters, save favorite searches for new grant alerts, and save your favorite grants to keep track of them. Create a “Researcher Profile” GrantForward also recommends grants based on individual CVs, past publications, and research interests.

GRANTFORWARD

Access GrantForward and click sign up to establish a user account using a wmich.edu address. Have full access to the search features including saved-search and personalized grant recommendations. Log in without creating an account while on campus but to save searches or login remotely, an account is required.

If you have any questions or feedback about the service, please contact [Sarah Pratt](#).

Resources that may be helpful:

[Quick Guide Start-up](#) (one-page summary)

[Researcher Welcome Guide](#)

[Quick overview video](#)

[Creating an account demo](#)

[Creating your profile demo](#)

[Additional tutorials and guides](#)

[Dr. Yan Lu Training at KAMSC](#) | March 30

WMU biological sciences lab of Dr. Yan Lu as part of training for students at Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center.