



**METHODIST  
UNIVERSITY**

*The Student and Faculty  
Awards Convocation*

**2020**



# 2020

## *Awards Convocation*

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The **Anthony J. DeLapa Art Achievement Award** was established in 2003 to honor Dr. Anthony J. DeLapa for his contributions to the college in the positions of Vice President of Academic Affairs and Department Chair for Education. The award is presented annually to a junior or senior Art or Art Education major selected by the Fine Arts Division. The student is recognized for his/her academic excellence and contribution to the arts, as well as their demonstrated outstanding potential as an artist. Only qualifying students with a 3.0 GPA or higher in their major will be considered. The award consists of a \$300 honorarium, certificate, and a memorial plaque, located in the Fine Arts Division and inscribed with the recipient's name.

**Anthony J. DeLapa Art Achievement Award** ..... **Jason Aguilar**

The **Willis C. Gates Music Award for Excellence in Performance** was established by the music faculty in 1979 to honor Dr. Gates, one of the original faculty members of Methodist University and the first Chair of the Department of Music. The award is presented to the student deemed by the music faculty the finest performing artist of the academic year. The student's name is inscribed on a plaque that is on permanent display at the University and is presented with a smaller plaque commemorating the award.

**Willis C. Gates Music Award for Excellence in Performance** ..... **Diamond Foster**

The **Cumberland Oratorio Singers Choral Award** is given annually by the Cumberland Oratorio Singers to a member of the Methodist University Concert Choir whom the conductor feels most nearly embodies the characteristics of an ideal choral singer. It is an award of \$100 and an engraved plaque.

**Cumberland Oratorio Singers Choral Award** ..... **Jordan Dues**

The **Robert S. Christian English Achievement Award** was established in 2002 by the English Department faculty to honor Dr. Robert S. Christian for his many years of service to the department and to the University as a whole. The award is presented annually to the graduating senior English major deemed to be most worthy of receiving the award by members of the English Department faculty. Only graduating English majors with an overall GPA of 3.40 or higher in courses counting toward fulfillment of requirements for the major in English will be considered. Also, other distinguished contributions to the intellectual and cultural life of the department and of the University as a whole will be evaluated. The award consists of an honorarium of \$200 and a certificate.

**Robert S. Christian English Achievement Award** ..... **ChaQuandra Whitted**

The **Best Composition Award** presented by the faculty in the English and Writing Department for the best student paper written in a composition class (ENG 1000, 1010, 1020, 1040, or 2070) in the preceding calendar year. The award consists of a certificate of recognition and a check for \$100.

**Best Composition Award** ..... **Mark Bushhouse**

The **George and Lillian Miller Award**, established by Methodist University's first Dean of Women, who was also a member of the History Department, is presented to the history student with the greatest academic potential. The student must have completed 18 s.h. of work in history by or during the second semester of his/her junior year. The honorarium is a \$50 United States Government Bond or the cash equivalent.

**George and Lillian Miller Award** ..... **Andrew Scogin**

The **Rebecca Woodward Wendelken History Writing Award** was established in 2018 by members of the History Department to honor Rebecca Woodward Wendelken for her many years of service in both History and Global Studies. It recognizes the author of the best History paper written in an academic year, and consists of a certificate and a \$75 check.

**Rebecca Woodward Wendelken History Writing Award** ..... **Stephen Atwell**

The **Professors' Spanish Award** was established in 2009 by the chair of the department of modern languages to recognize the advancement of students majoring/minoring in Spanish. It is given to the student with the highest academic potential in Spanish. Students whose native tongue is Spanish are not eligible. It consists of a \$50 check and a certificate of recognition.

**Professors' Spanish Award** ..... **Haja Mohammed Nafe Ali**

The **Plyler Award in the School of Arts and Humanities**, established as the Plyler Humanities Award in 1988 by Dr. Lorenzo Plyler and his family in memory of the late Elizabeth (Betty) Plyler, consists of \$100 presented to a graduating senior in the School of Arts and Humanities chosen by the Chairs of the Departments within the School of Arts and Humanities.

**Plyler Award in Humanities** ..... **Ronal Campos Porras**

The **Walter B. Clark Maximum Effort Award** was established in 1995 to honor Mr. Walter B. Clark, founder of Mid-South Insurance Company, and is presented to a graduating Reeves School of Business student. It is given to an individual who has demonstrated maximum effort in overcoming hardship, commitment, work ethic, and is likely to be successful in the future. Nominations are open to students and faculty. The advisor for the nominated student should substantiate the award criteria. The award consists of a \$100 honorarium and a plaque of recognition.

**Walter B. Clark Maximum Effort Award**..... **Michael DeColli**

The **Theresa P. Clark Writing Endowed Award** was established in 2013 by Professor Donna K. Pelham and other faculty members of the Reeves School of Business to honor the memory of Professor Theresa P. Clark and her career-long commitment to exemplary professional writing and student research. The \$150 award is presented to the Business 3520 (Business Law I) student who submits the best legal research paper during the academic year in which the award is presented.

**Theresa P. Clark Writing Endowed Award** .....**Katlin Kendrick**

The **David G. Wilson Community Service Award** was established in 2002 by Joseph F. Doll to honor David G. Wilson, the first Executive-in-Residence of the Reeves School of Business. The award is presented to a student in the Reeves School of Business who has shown by action an outstanding level of service to their non-University community. The awardee is selected by the Dean of the Reeves School of Business. The award consists of a \$150 honorarium, a certificate, and the student's name engraved on a memorial plaque which is housed in the Reeves School of Business.

**David G. Wilson Community Service Award** .....**Joshua Deutsch and Johnathan Fritz**

The **Charles M. Reeves, Jr. Outstanding Scholar Award** was established in 1993 to honor Mr. Charles M. Reeves, Jr. The award is presented to an outstanding senior. The recipient must have 106 s.h. for the academic semester ending in December and should be involved in extracurricular activity, preferably in the business areas. The award consists of a \$100 honorarium and a certificate of recognition.

**Charles M. Reeves, Jr. Outstanding Scholar** .....**Kaitlin Coltharp**

The **Ronald P. Kirchner Award in Resort Management** was established in 2006 by Dr. Mary Kirchner to honor her uncle, Ronald Paul Kirchner (1936-2004), for his contributions to the resort industry. Mr. Kirchner was a founder and owner of the Hartland Glen Golf Club and maintained an interest in golf and resorts throughout his life. This award is given to the most outstanding junior or senior in the Resort, Club and Hospitality Management program, as determined by the Resort, Club and Hospitality Management faculty. The award consists of a \$100 honorarium, a certificate, and a memorial plaque, located in the Reeves School of Business and inscribed with the recipient's name.

**Ronald P. Kirchner Award in Resort Management** ..... **Stormy Flinchum**

The **Coach Larry Kirchner Gold Medal Award** was established in 2006 by Dr. Mary Kirchner, her husband, Charles, and her four sons to honor her father, Lawrence Wayne Kirchner (1937-2002), for his lifelong contributions to inner-city athletic programs. Coach K. coached several Detroit area baseball players who went on to play professional baseball, as well as countless young men who benefited from his example of generosity and sportsmanship. This award is given to the most outstanding junior or senior in the Sport Management program, as determined by the Sport Management faculty. The award consists of a \$100 honorarium, a certificate, and a memorial plaque, located in the Reeves School of Business and inscribed with the recipient's name.

**Coach Larry Kirchner Gold Medal Award** ..... **Jaime Logan**

The **PGA Golf Management Outstanding Student Award** was established in 2010. It is presented to an outstanding male and female student in his and her respective classes. The recipients of this award are selected by the PGA Golf Management faculty. The recipients of this award have demonstrated outstanding performance in the classroom – minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher and full-time student status, passed the PAT (Player Ability Test), provided outstanding performance in their internships – minimum grades of B or better in all internships, and successful completion of all PGA levels. The following additional criteria may also be taken into consideration when determining the award recipients: Service to the PGA Golf Management Program, e.g. participation in PGM Tour events, participation in MU Golf Association Board/Events, working or volunteering on the MU Golf Course, assisting with special events, and service to the University or local community. The recipient will receive a monetary gift and a certificate of recognition.

**PGA Golf Management Outstanding Senior**.....**Michael DeColli, Nicole Triano, and Morgan Bowen**

**PGA Golf Management Outstanding Junior** ..... **Macrae Conrad**

The **Samuel J. Clark Award in Accounting** was established in 1990 by Lynn G. Clark to honor Samuel J. Clark, Director of Institutional Computing at Methodist University and a previous Registrar and Director of Extension Services. He came to the University as an Instructor of Accounting. The \$250 award is given based on a vote of the faculty of the Accounting Department and is awarded to a returning junior (who will be a senior in the fall). It is designated for the purchase of books in the Methodist University Bookstore for the fall semester.

**Samuel J. Clark Award in Accounting** ..... **Piyathida Chankhao**

The **Director's Award in Nursing** is presented to one senior nursing student who exemplifies outstanding academic and professional achievement. The selected student will exhibit leadership in pre-professional (e.g. leadership in the Student Nurses Association; service on department or college committees; community activities) or professional activities (e.g. participation in the North Carolina Student Nurses Association, Men In Nursing Club, or other nursing specialty activities; nursing service to the community). The student is chosen by the Program Director of Nursing with input from the nursing faculty. The award consists of a plaque and certificate of recognition.

**Director's Award in Nursing** ..... **Andrew Ballard**

The **Outstanding Health Care Administration Student Award** was established in 1995 by the Sandhills Healthcare Executives Forum, a local affiliate of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The award is presented annually to a Health Care Administration graduating senior for scholastic achievement, service to the community, and for active membership in the ACHE. The award consists of a \$250 honorarium, a plaque, and the individual's name will be permanently inscribed on a memorial plaque.

**Outstanding Health Care Administration Student Award** ..... **Larissa Collins**

The **Outstanding Social Work Student and Deborah Murray Social Work Senior Awards** were established by the Social Work Department to honor top students as selected by the Social Work faculty in recognition of leadership, service and academic achievement.

**Deborah Murray Outstanding Social Work Student**..... **Emily Lucas**

**Outstanding Social Work Senior** ..... **Fredlisha Lansana and Josh Morris**

**Undergraduate Research Award in Justice Studies.** This award is given to an undergraduate who has demonstrated exceptional research skills, and has presented or published the results of his or her research in a community, professional, or academic setting. The award is sponsored and voted on by the faculty, and the winner receives a certificate.

**Undergraduate Research Award in Justice Studies** ..... **Kayla Birmingham, Mikaela Brosh, Bertha Llamas, Robert Szewczyk, and Madeline Yeung**

The **Outstanding Justice Studies Graduate Award** is presented to the outstanding justice studies graduate in recognition of outstanding leadership, service, and academic achievement. The award recipient is chosen by the justice studies faculty.

**Outstanding Justice Studies Graduate Award** ..... **William Diederich**

The **Outstanding Forensic Science Service Award** is presented to the outstanding Forensic Science student in recognition of outstanding loyalty and service to the Forensic Science program. The award recipient is chosen by the Forensic Science faculty.

**Outstanding Applied Forensic Science Service Award** ..... **Lisa Kasamba**

The **Outstanding Forensic Science Graduate Award** is presented to the outstanding Forensic Science graduate in recognition of outstanding leadership, service, and academic achievement. The award recipient is chosen by the Forensic Science faculty.

**Outstanding Applied Forensic Science Graduate Award** ..... **Catia Dombaxe**

The **Mass Communications Outstanding Major of the Year Award** is presented each spring to a Mass Communications senior. The recipient is selected on the basis of his/her academic achievement and his/her participation in extracurricular activities within the Mass Communications program and throughout the University and community. His/her name will also be engraved upon a departmental plaque that includes the names of winners from previous years.

**Mass Communications Outstanding Major of the Year**..... **Kseniia Petrova**

The **Pi Kappa Delta Speech and Debate Honorary Award** was established in 2016 to recognize one or more students who have earned membership in PKD through participation and support of the MU Debate and Speech Team. Selection is made by a committee of the Applied Communication Department faculty based on the recommendation of the Director of Debate and Speech. The award usually consists of a \$250 honorarium, plaque, and framed certificate.

**Pi Kappa Delta Speech and Debate Honorary Award** ..... **Kseniia Petrova**

The **Outstanding Political Science Student Award** was established by the Department of Political Science in 2002 to recognize a student who has exhibited outstanding leadership, service, and academic achievement. The student must be majoring in Political Science and selected by department faculty. The award usually consists of a \$100 honorarium and a certificate of recognition. The student's name will be inscribed on a plaque permanently displayed in the Trustees Building.  
**Outstanding Political Science Student Award..... Ailen Gomez Pereira**

The **Lura S. Tally Award for Leadership Excellence** was established in 1999 to recognize a student who has exhibited outstanding leadership. The recipient must be minoring in Leadership Studies and have a demonstrated record of leadership excellence. The student is selected by Leadership Program faculty and representatives from the Advisory Board of the Tally Center. The award usually consists of a \$250 honorarium and a certificate of recognition. The student's name will be inscribed on a plaque that is on permanent display in the Trustees Building.  
**Lura S. Tally Award for Leadership Excellence ..... Kseniia Petrova**

The **Exercise and Sport Science Award** was established in the 2009-10 academic year. This award is presented to an outstanding senior in Exercise and Sport Science. The recipient must demonstrate high academic achievement, interest in pursuing a career in Exercise and Sport Science or a related field, and participate in service to the community. This award consists of a certificate, a plaque, and a memorial plaque, which will be inscribed with the recipient's name and prominently displayed in the March F. Riddle Center.  
**Exercise and Sport Science Award ..... Paul Craig and Sierra Swasey**



The **Wenda D. Johnson Physical Education and Health Education Major of the Year Award** was established in 2006 and is presented to the student who demonstrates the enviable traits that mirrored Johnson's career and life. The recipient each year will be the student who demonstrates high academic performance, professionalism at all times, and service to the community. This award consists of a certificate, a plaque and a memorial plaque, which will be inscribed with the recipient's name and prominently displayed in the March F. Riddle Center.

**Wenda D. Johnson Physical Education Major of the Year Award..... Carleigh Haywood**

The **Outstanding Computer Science Student Award** was established in 2012, it is presented to an outstanding senior who is graduating with a degree in Computer Science. The recipient of this award is nominated and selected by the Computer Science faculty. The individual recipient of this award has demonstrated high academic excellence, leadership in the department's Computer Science Club, presented research projects, and participated in community service. The recipient will receive a \$100 honorarium, and a certificate of recognition.

**Outstanding Computer Science Student ..... William Davis**

The **Outstanding Computer Information Technology Student Award** was established in 2012, it is presented to an outstanding senior who is graduating with a degree in Computer Information Technology. The recipient of this award is nominated and selected by the Computer Science faculty. The individual recipient of this award has demonstrated exceptional performance in academic excellence, leadership in Computer Science Club, undergraduate research work, and participation in community service. The recipient will receive a \$100 honorarium, and a certificate of recognition.

**Outstanding Computer Information Technology Student ..... Daphne Wall**

The **Ott-Cooper Science Award** was established in 1971 by Mrs. Pauline Longest to honor the first and second Chairmen of the Science and Mathematics Division, Drs. Charles N. Ott and William C. Cooper. It is presented to a senior science major for scholastic achievement, interest, and participation in Science Department activities, and potential for success in a science-related career; consists of \$100 and a certificate of recognition.

**Ott-Cooper Science Award..... Cason Verhine**

The **Curie Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award** is sponsored by Chemistry Department and awarded to a student/s who is currently enrolled in the General Chemistry course on the basis of outstanding academic achievement in chemistry. The award consists of complimentary molecular models.

**Marie Curie General Chemistry Achievement Award ..... Jeff Joby and Ashley Parra**

The **Clark Memorial Science Service Award** was established in 1984 by the Biology faculty to honor Dr. Fred E. Clark, Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Biology. It is given to the student making the greatest contribution to the Science Department's programs and activities.

**Clark Memorial Science Service Award.....Egidio Eddyto de Do Carma Dias Vegas**

The **Chemistry Mendeleevium Medallion** was established in 2010 by the chemistry faculty and is presented to a graduating Chemistry major. The recipient is selected by the Chemistry and Physical Science faculty in recognition of exceptional academic achievement and active involvement and service within the department. The winner must also have graduate or professional school aspirations. The award consists of a medallion, certificate, and monetary award.

**Mendeleevium Medallion .....Eric Bi Youan Tra**

The **Outstanding Engineering Service Award** is presented to an engineering student who exhibits outstanding loyalty, leadership, and service to the Engineering Program. The award recipient is chosen by the Engineering faculty.

**Outstanding Engineering Service Award ..... Keith (KJ) Hardie**

The **Engineering Graduate Award** is presented to a graduating engineering student. The recipient is selected by the Engineering faculty to recognize exceptional achievement in academics, involvement within the department and on campus, and potential as a practicing engineer.

**Outstanding Engineering Graduate Award..... Alex Kachler**

The **Balaez-Ambrose Mathematics Award** was established by James Loschiavo, a 1969 (Summa Cum Laude) graduate, to honor Dr. Ofelia M. Balaez and Mr. Robert B. Ambrose, Professors of Mathematics. It is presented to the mathematics student with the greatest academic potential. The student must have completed 18 s.h. of work in mathematics by or during the second semester of his/her junior year. It consists of \$250 in cash and a certificate of recognition.

**Balaez-Ambrose Mathematics Award..... Christian Austin**

The **Senior Athletes of the Year Award** goes to the most outstanding male and female senior athlete of the Year. This is done through a nomination process and vote of the Head Coaches.

**Senior Athletes of the Year Award** ..... **Female-Morgan Bowen, Golf**  
**Male-Alex Kachler, Baseball**

The **Methodist University President's Award** is presented to the cadet who has displayed the highest level of leadership and military excellence since entering ROTC.

**Methodist University President's ROTC Award** ..... **William Diederich**

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# 2020

## *Faculty Awards*

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**Jane Weeks Gardiner Excellence in Academic Advising Award**.....**Dan Bennett**

**Exemplary Teacher Award from the General Board of Higher Educational Ministry of the United Methodist Church**.....**Mark Vecellio**

**The President's Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Expression**.....**Hem Basnet**

**Distinguished Professor of the Year Award**.....**Denise Bauer**


**Alfred E. Cleveland Endowed Award for Excellence in Teaching**.....**Richard Walsh**





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Engage.  
Enrich.  
*Empower.*

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