

## Four honored at University Residences' Favorite Faculty Reception



University Residences honored professors, lecturers and Faculty Fellows in its second annual Favorite Faculty Reception in April, a celebration of influential campus mentors nominated by students living in University Residences.

Beth McCuskey, vice provost for student life, thanked faculty in attendance for investing in students. "Your work and your commitment to our students makes a difference, and makes Purdue a residential campus we can be proud of." She also thanked students for taking the time to write the 393 nominations that were submitted.

Vice provost for faculty affairs Alyssa Panitch also spoke, stressing the importance of the growing collaborative relationship between students and faculty.

"We recognize that learning doesn't take place only in the classroom and labs anymore," Panitch said. "Today, we're deliberately blurring lines between student lives on the

academic campus and in the residence halls."

**Mark Ward**, associate professor of statistics, was named Most Outstanding Faculty, with the students who nominated him praising him for "a unique teaching style that emphasizes the student learn-

ing experience above all else," and adding that he often tells students, "I work for you."

Ward serves as a mentor for the Purdue Statistics Living Learning Community and as a Faculty Fellow in Hillenbrand.



**Most Outstanding Faculty, Mark Ward, with Jing Su.**

"This is really flattering. I have a research grant that all of my Learning Community students are involved in, and they've been great to work with this year. Truly hard-working students," Ward said.

Most Distinguished Faculty for Academics was awarded to **Megha Anwer**, a continuing lecturer in the Honors College. The award commends a faculty member who educates students in an engaging way in and out of the classroom. Anwer teaches creative courses such as photography, cinema, and interdisciplinary writing in the Honors College.

One nominator wrote of Anwer, "She sees the potential in us all, and encourages us to think critically and see things differently."

"It's very generous of my students. It also makes me think of all my teachers who I've learned to teach from," Anwer said.

**Jonathan Wilker**, an associate professor of chemistry and materials engineering, was recognized as Most Distinguished Faculty for Research, given to a faculty member who influenced a student's passion within that field of study. The student who nominated him wrote, "He is the prime example of someone that not only does research that can change the world as we know it, but he produces students (both graduate and undergraduate) who will go on to move the world forward."

Wilker said, "This is kind of amazing. The students here are so much of a pleasure to work with."

The Frederick L. Hovde Faculty Fellow of the Year was awarded to **Bret Madsen**, the senior Faculty Fellow for Meredith Hall. Madsen is a program manager for Hewlett Packard Enterprise, for whom he



**Most Distinguished Faculty for Academics, Megha Anwer, with Christina Rash.**



**Most Distinguished Faculty for Research, Jonathan Wilker, with Elizabeth Musgrave.**

works in the HP Satellite Lab at Purdue.

"This was very unexpected. The main thing is I've enjoyed working with students. You get to learn what drives their passions," said Madsen, who has been a Faculty Fellow since 2005.

The Faculty Fellow program celebrated 50 years in 2016, founded in 1966 by President Hovde, Purdue's longest-serving president.

Samuel Midkiff, professor of electrical and computer engineering, served as the faculty speaker at the event and shared his experience as

a Faculty Fellow in Shreve.

“Students can get a very one-dimensional view of us as faculty, and that interferes with the learning process,” Midkiff said. “It’s wonderful for me to get a better feel for what our student is like and learn from them. I’ve learned how to do rock climbing – I can’t do rock climbing but now I intellectually know how to do rock climbing.”

Director of Residential Life Carl Krieger wrapped up the Favorite Faculty Event by thanking faculty again for the impact they have on students, which transcends the hours they spend in a classroom.

“There is so much more to the residential experience than pizza parties. When students cross the threshold of a residence hall door, their brains stay on. I’ve heard such amazing conversations at 3 o’clock in the morning in the hallway, as students diagram some crazy biological something that I’ve never seen, nor can I understand, and

yet they’re talking about it in such nuance that it would make you so proud,” Krieger said. “I don’t know how many times I can say thank you to all of you for all the work that you do. This gathering is a reflection of that thanks, which comes not only from me, but you’ve heard

it over and over again here.”

The event was hosted by a student committee of Ana Carolina Corey, Guna Kondapaneni, Stephanie Leeth, Elizabeth Musgrave, Christina Rash and Jing Su.



**Hovde Faculty Fellow of the Year, Bret Madsen, with committee Guna Kondapaneni.**

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