

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY Department of Human Resources



Staff Service Awards Ceremony Thursday, June 20, 2024 Tinkham Veale University Center Kelvin & Eleanor Smith Ballroom

# PROGRAM

# **Brunch Buffet**

# Welcome

Carolyn Gregory Vice President for Human Resources

Presentation of The Robin Kramer Volunteer Award and President's Awards for Distinguished Service

> Eric W. Kaler President

# **Congratulatory Remarks**

Ray Krajci Staff Advisory Council, Chair

# **Presentation of Service Awards and Certificates**

Jeremy Lewis Training & Development Manager

# **Closing Remarks**

Jeremy Lewis Training & Development Manager

# **STAFF SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

#### **ROBIN KRAMER VOLUNTEER AWARD**

NAME Marie Norris DEPARTMENT

Bioethics

#### PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

#### <u>NAME</u>

#### **DEPARTMENT**

Leah Jeunnette Beth Trecasa Molly Watkins

Bioethics Inamori Center Center for International Affairs

#### **50 YEAR HONOREE**

#### NAME

**DEPARTMENT** 

Barbara A. Sciulli

**Student Services** 

#### **45 YEAR HONOREES**

#### <u>NAME</u>

**DEPARTMENT** 

Cindy Creegan Henrietta Jones Charley Knox Grace Svilar Advancement Services Field Services Astronomy Graduate Education Office

#### **35 YEAR HONOREES**

#### NAME

Mark Beno Dennis Butler Tsui Chan William Claspy Andy Dorchak Gwen Fergus Johnson Theresa M. Grigger Karin Hollis Clifton Horhn Shenaz Khan Andrea L. Longstreet Rico Mixon Vicki Moore-Holzhauer Chester Ramey Lori Waugh

#### **DEPARTMENT**

Inst of Computational Biology Custodial Services Center on Urban Poverty Academic Engagement Services Library - Law Advancement Services Research Computing Genetics Library - Law Physiology & Biophysics Procurement Grounds Maintenance University Counseling Service Deputy CIO Dance

#### **25 YEAR HONOREES**

#### <u>NAME</u>

Betsy Banks Douglas Bazdar Monica Bradley Dawn Brown Kevin Chan Michelle Corcoran Teneshia Cromity Diane R. Dowd Janice A. Eatman Williams David Elliott Homer J. Farr

#### **DEPARTMENT**

Ctr for Civic Engmnt and Learn AIDS Clinical Trial Unit Research Administration Biochemistry Tech Infrastructure Services Sociology Human Resources MSTP NYSP ERP Project Theater

#### <u>NAME</u>

Shelly Feiwell **Roshon Hardnick** Samuel Harmon Renee Holland-Golphin Jean A. Janesz Wolfgang Kruger Kathryn Kwiatkowski Lisa Long Ivory Martin Emma McMath Jen Mikulan Cynthia Moore Debora Poruban Yulan Oing Scott Reba David Reilley **Dennis Rupert** D Rwambuya Ella Shurr **Rochelle Stephens** Angelika Szakacs Katie Wervey Angela Williams Eng U Wu

#### **DEPARTMENT**

**Comprehensive Care Custodial Services Tech Infrastructure Services** Philosophy Animal Resource Center Conveyance **Gelfand STEM Center** Dermatology UH **Custodial Services Custodial Services** Pathology Population & Quant Health Sci Pathology **GMS** Comprehensive Cancer Ctr Med Infectious Disease UH Grounds Maintenance Student Affairs Med Infectious Disease UH **Creation & Curation Services** Chemical & Biomolecular Eng. Mechanical & Aerospace Eng. Neurosciences **Custodial Services** Telephony

# **10 YEAR HONOREES**

#### **NAME**

Htin Aung Autumn Beechler Stebing Chuck Black

#### **DEPARTMENT**

Med Infectious Disease UH Education Abroad Dean - Management

Michael Butler Constance Cumberworth Robert Deissler Julie DeJager John Denker Alicia DePlatchett Joshua Dinya Dyatra Fletcher Catherine Gaffen Michael Goldberg Dina Greisl **Greg Harris** Nanette Hodermarsky Joseph Hutchinson Mette Johansen Alec lokubaitis Audrey Kinsella Michael Knightmall Gina Kola Renee Laux Seong-Ki Lee Sandra Livingston Mayur Madhavan William Marcus Svlvia Marrero Suzi Mason

Brigid Mercer Penelope Miron

**Michelle Moyer** 

Cordaro Nevels

Sean Murphy

Rachel Niemi

Orthodontics Physics GMS Comprehensive Cancer Ctr **Ophthalmology UH** Vice Dean Finance & Admin. Utilities Thwing Center - Admin Nutrition Veale Entrepreneurship GMS Ctr Comm Hlth Integration Dean of Students National Development & Major Gifts **Grounds Maintenance** Molecular Bio & Microbiology **Enrollment Operations** Nursing **Custodial Services** Med Pulmonary & Crit Care UH Population & Quant Health Sci Physiology & Biophysics Univ Mkting & Comm - General Genetics **Biomedical Engineering - CSE UG Advising Support Office** Chemistry Nursing Genetics GMS Ctr Global Hlth & Disease **Customer Support Services** Housing Custodial IACUC

Div Eng Leadership & Prof Prac

Renee O'Connor Laura Overman Soumya Panigrahi lim Petras Michelle Riske-Morris Michelle Romero **Kimberly Rossi** Steve Scheidt **Kimberly Scott** Jonah J. Scott-McKean James Sebring Novella Shelton **Richard Sigg** Katie Skapin Yohonna Smith **James Stanton** Paula Sumner **Rich Tomazin** Beth Trecasa Laura Weber Smith Stevie Whitson Brandon Williams Rayshaun A. Williams Martin G. Wright Victoria Wright Pan Zhao Yiging Zhao Yifei Zhu Craig M. Zullig

University Attorney **Begun Ctr for Violence Prevent** Med Pulmonary & Crit Care UH **Deputy CIO Begun Ctr for Violence Prevent Psychiatry UH** SOM Human Resources Recruitment Dean of Students **Ophthalmology UH** Conveyance Housing Custodial Admissions Teaching & Learning Technology University Registrar Admissions UG Advising Support Office Materials Sci & Engineering Inamori Center Custom Programs **Custodial Services Grounds Maintenance** Police & Mobile Security **Public Safety Administration** Office of the Provost Physiology & Biophysics Genetics Vice Dean Medical Education **MSASS Finance & Admin** 

# **ROBIN KRAMER VOLUNTEER AWARD**

The Robin Kramer Volunteer Award honors a staff member whose volunteer service to the campus community has had a significant impact on colleagues, students, or visitors.

Case Western Reserve University created the Robin Kramer Volunteer Award in honor of Robin Kramer, a university employee whose qualities and commitment to volunteerism set a standard for distinguished service. Robin Kramer (August 5, 1955 - November 1, 2013) was known for her passion for serving the University and its employees. Robin was a friendly and familiar face of the Staff Advisory Council (SAC) and loved to welcome new members at the SAC New Member Orientation. She also co-chaired the Elections and Staff Recognition Committees. Her family, friends, and co-workers remember her for her infectious smile, contagious laugh, concern, loyalty, and the support she demonstrated to the University community. Robin's enthusiasm and energy were evident in everything she did.



## Marie Norris Graduate Studies Coordinator - Department of Bioethics

Marie Norris' dedication to student success and diversity, equity and inclusion extends far beyond her role in the Department of Bioethics. The Robin Kramer Volunteer Award recipient is described as a careful and thoughtful listener who embodies the values she champions.

Norris helps facilitate the Diversity 360 program, actively engaging in campuswide educational initiatives aimed at boosting cross-cultural competencies, deepening understanding of privilege and marginalization, raising awareness about microaggressions and empowering individuals to become catalysts for change and diversity champions. She serves as an executive committee member for the Sustained Dialogue program and helps cultivate diversity advocates through her work with the Train the Champion program.

"I want you to know how important Ms. Norris was to me as a student. She listened to what I was going through, helped me when I had problems (even helping me find a new apartment mid-year when mine was broken into)," said one alum. "I don't think I would have been nearly as successful without Ms. Norris being so kind and generous."

Norris' nominator said she is deeply deserving of this award and demonstrates inclusivity and generosity through thoughtful listening, remarkable warmth and empathy that ultimately makes students feel connected to the greater university community.

# PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The President's Award for Distinguished Service honors up to three staff members every year whose outstanding contributions to our campus culture have a transformational effect on university colleagues, students, or visitors.

The President's Award for Distinguished Service was created in honor of Roseanne Shaerban (May 9, 1958 – February 6, 1989), a university employee whose qualities and commitment set a standard for distinguished service. Her family, friends, and co-workers remember her for the care, concern, loyalty and support she demonstrated to the University community. Roseanne was feisty, creative, and exceptionally generous in her willingness to help others in need.



# Leah Jeunnette Director of the Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities Program - Department of Bioethics

Leah Jeunnette's exceptional organizational skills, empathy and dedication to students led her to become the first staff member appointed as director of the highly ranked Master of Arts in Bioethics and Medical Humanities program. Previously, only faculty members held this role in the program's 29-year history.

Under her leadership, the program nearly doubled its enrollment, enhanced experiences and ensured well-being across a diverse student body. "Leah Jeunnette is extraordinary," said her nominator. "There are endless stories that could be shared about her efficacy, innovation, leadership, can-do attitude, compassion and tireless work ethic."

During the pandemic, Jeunnette's leadership shone as she led the department in transitioning courses to Zoom, a challenging task made more complex by the required 160-hour clinical rotations for master's students. Helping secure internet access for a rural student and a laptop for a first-generation urban low-income student, all while driving curricular innovations and technical assistance, Jeunnette ensured the program maintained the highest level of academic excellence.

Jeunnette's nominator added, "Her can-do demeanor is not only palpable by students, but also she is a morale leader among the staff and faculty. People look to her as a model for continuing to achieve high standards with attitudes of constructive progress and character based on a strong ethical compass."



# Beth Trecasa Associate Director - Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence

Beth Trecasa puts her heart into her work with the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence, and her dedication and creativity have helped elevate its impact on ethical leadership both locally and globally.

Trecasa has taken the Inamori Center's journal—the *International Journal of Ethical Leadership* (IJEL)—to new heights, building a strong online presence leading to worldwide downloads of IJEL articles. She also expanded the journal's reach by producing special issues in French and Spanish and recruiting international contributors. In addition to her work with the IJEL, she has helped organize the center's reproductive justice events as part of their "Conversations on Justice" series, including an interactive exhibit in which she collaborated with archivists and librarians to locate, reproduce and curate the items.

Trecasa also is dedicated to the students she mentors, taking time to provide professional development, write recommendation letters and teach networking skills, on top of providing leadership experiences and guidance through her work as an advisor to the Global Ethical Leaders Society (GELS)—the Inamori Center's student organization.

"Beth is open-minded, very respectful of others, creative, innovative, deeply committed to the Center's mission and extremely caring," a nominator wrote. "She has made the Inamori Center a haven for all, and she never forgets that we have a duty of care to all those who turn to us for support—especially our students."



# Molly Watkins Assistant Provost for International Affairs - Center for International Affairs

Molly Watkins is known for being thoughtful, compassionate and inclusive—both as a supervisor and in her efforts supporting internationalization at Case Western Reserve University.

Since joining the Center for International Affairs in 2011, Watkins' work has helped connect CWRU students with top institutions worldwide through the university's involvement in the Global Engineering Education Exchange and strategic partnerships in China, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Uganda, Germany and many other locations around the world.

In addition to being a welcoming and accessible supervisor, Watkins also encourages her team to participate in conferences, take on leadership roles, and advance their professional growth and involvement in the broader international education community. She leads by example through her own involvement in high-level initiatives such as the North Star Initiative Thinkers and the Global E3 organization.

Watkins also is committed to advancing inclusivity, working with staff to update policies and procedures, such as supporting education abroad staff in a new initiative to provide remote office hours in the LGBT Center and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and committing to continuous learning through programs like Train the Champion.

When recommending Watkins for this award, her nominator shared: "It is easy to say diversity or inclusion are important, but putting those words into action takes planning, time and sometimes sacrifices or reprioritization. Molly does the difficult things. She practices what she preaches, and that is commendable."

# **50 YEAR HONOREE**

#### Barbara A. Sciulli

Barbara has always enjoyed her co-workers in all of the departments in which she has worked, and even remains in contact with some that left the university 30+ years ago. She started out as a Clerk 1 at the university and was promoted three times in the Controller's Office. When Barbara transferred to the School of Dental Medicine, she was able to work with the main registrar and financial aid offices when transitioning from manual record keeping to a mostly computerized process. Barbara was active on the Staff Advisory Council and served as secretary for 2 years. In addition, she is on the Fringe Benefits Committee. Barbara has been an active volunteer with Cleveland Metroparks since 1995 as well.

# **45 YEAR HONOREES**

## **Cindy Creegan**

The celebration of university-wide campaign completions is one of the many memories that comes to mind as a favorite for Cindy. She has been with Case Western Reserve University for every campaign the university has had over the past 45 years. Cindy graduated from Case Western Reserve University twice and is proud of her 3 children who are also alumni. Cindy is proud of the wonderful staff she has in Advancement Services, where they have an average tenure of 20 years! It is a wonderful group of people that have become a family. Cindy has served on the Staff Advisory Council, participated in the University Service Days to help the community and has also served on the Grievance Committee.

## Henrietta Jones

Henrietta enjoys interacting with the faculty, staff and students at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences where she works in the Field Education Department. In 1998, she created and introduced the first fillable Field Education Learning Contracts and Evaluations. Later, in 2005, she updated these forms to online documents and they were put into use in the fall of that year. She was a member of the MSASS Dean Review Committee in 2016 and she provided assistance during the school's accreditation process in 1985, 1993 and 2018. From 1997 to 1999, Henrietta was part of the Staff Advisory Council. Additionally, she served as a member and chair of the Work Environment Committee from 1995 to 2015, coordinated the MSASS Graduate Students' receptions for the years 2017 to 2022 and received the 2001 Bea Lenora Benson Staff Award for "Recognizing Excellence and Professionalism" in 2001. Henrietta has also received two MSASS Awards for a job well done during her tenure.

## **Charley Knox**

Case Western Reserve University has been a major part of Charley's life since he arrived on campus in the fall of 1970 as an undergraduate student. In May of 1974, Charley earned a Bachelor of Science in Astronomy. He continued on to earn a Master of Science in Physics in 1978 and he started working in Astronomy that fall. Among a number of favorite memories, Charley is most proud that he has helped Astronomy move from mechanical calculators to the computing systems necessary to do modern research. Charley was also a proud part of the relocation process for three telescopes operated by the department. Working with the CWRU Film Society since the fall of 1970, he has helped with keeping the facilities in Strosacker Auditorium up to date and capable of running multiple film presentation formats. In addition, he has worked with Science Olympiad in the Chardon School district where he coached students in their astronomy events and provided testing material for local and state level competitions.

#### **Grace Svilar**

For Grace, traveling to Kampala, Uganda as a data manager with the Uganda-CWRU Research Collaboration made every workday a new and exciting experience in the mid-1990's. Grace stayed in a house with a safe room and a short-wave radio to contact the Marines at the US Embassy in case of imminent danger. Fortunately, none of that was needed during her visit. After visiting the local Zoo, her group laughed when they found two monkeys staring forlornly at the bananas resting on the backseat of the car. On another visit to the National Park one weekend, she almost ran into an elephant standing in the middle of the road! As program coordinator for a National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grant, one of Grace's duties was to write the annual progress report to NIH where she would chronicle the challenges, hard work, and achievements of trainees. Grace sent emails to the trainees to gather information, searched records for trips to conferences and was involved with poster presentations and recent publications. Writing the progress report became one of her favorite tasks. The NIH program officer surprised Grace by asking if she could use her progress report as a "prototype" to other new training grant coordinators because she liked Grace's reports so much. In Grace's free time, she loves to crochet. One day, Grace realized she couldn't think of another new crochet project to tackle because she had all of the blankets she needed and had given scarves and blankets to everyone in her family. Happily, Grace discovered Crafters@Case, whose mission is to knit or crochet scarves, hats, blankets, etc. to donate to those in need. This has been a wonderful way for Grace to satisfy her creative outlet, donate her handcrafted items to worthwhile causes, and make many new friends.

# **35 YEAR HONOREES**

#### **Dennis Butler**

Dennis's favorite memory has been meeting a lot of people who attended the university who have a variety of career goals and come from different ethnic backgrounds. Simply meeting people and seeing how the fashion trends have changed over the years, while meeting people from all walks of life, has held significant meaning for Dennis. His proudest accomplishments include that he is appreciated, recognized, and has kept his job! Being recognized for his food services and cleaning has meant a lot to Dennis over the years. People are proud of Dennis as a person at CWRU. When people thank Dennis and wish him a nice weekend, it reminds him of the importance of being recognized. In his free time, Dennis has played in bands at CWRU and he conducts research with a group called Diverse Life where he gets to meet new people, collect data, and make collages of what he does and where he has been.

# **William Claspy**

William's favorite memory from his tenure is when he walked across the stage at graduation and his father, Professor Paul Claspy, handed him his Master's Degree. His proudest accomplishment has been connecting the community with the unique treasures in Kelvin Smith Library Special Collections, such as hearing music students sing from medieval manuscripts.

## **Gwen Fergus Johnson**

All of Gwen's fondest memories involve the wonderful people she has met in her years as a student and staff member. One of her proudest accomplishments has included receiving her degree with honors from Case Western Reserve University. Gwen volunteers with CWRU for Community Days and is the treasurer for a High School Band Booster organization.

## Theresa M. Grigger

For Theresa, meeting her husband at Case Western Reserve University and marrying him at Amasa Stone Chapel was a defining moment in her 35+ years with the university. The cherished extended family she has formed and her personal growth are both priceless. These connections and experiences

have shaped her tenure in profound ways. Theresa's department recognizes her for her cheerful presence as she consistently brings smiles to those around her. Among her proudest accomplishments at the university are receiving both the President's and the Robin Kramer Volunteer Award, co-founding the Administrative Professionals Network, and serving on Staff Advisory Council (SAC) for 28 years. Let's not forget Theresa's impeccable taste in shoes! While serving on SAC, she has led committees like Elections and Community Service. Her forte lies in orchestrating events: from Basket Raffles to School Supply Drives, and volunteering at numerous spots like Ronald McDonald House, Judson Manor, Dress for Success and City Mission. In her free time, Theresa is an active participant in Cleveland's Alzheimer's walks where she aims to leave a lasting, positive impact on both the CWRU and broader Cleveland communities through extensive volunteer work and organizational contributions.

## **Karin Hollis**

Karin's favorite memory was being stuck at work until 9:30 p.m. when there was a blizzard over University Circle. People had to walk to Little Italy for dinner and wait until the cars were gone from the roads before she could leave campus. Karin's proudest accomplishment is the fact that she has been at one institution for 35+ years. Karin also served on the Staff Advisory Council for a few years during her tenure.

# **Clifton Horhn**

Clifton is fond of his years working at Freiberger and Sears Library. While working at Case Western Reserve University, Clifton has seen the effects of economic changes, layoffs, and the pandemic. There have been good times such as coaching the National Black Law Students Association team to the Law School Championship at the Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse. In his free time, Clifton is involved with preaching and spreading the good news of Jehovah God's Kingdom.

## Shenaz Khan

Shenaz loves working at Case Western Reserve University and is looking forward to many more years with the wonderful and energetic people around her. Shenaz has co-authored findings in journal publications, served as a mentor in the College Now Mentoring Program since 2014 and volunteered at registration for COVID-19 testing at the university.

## Andrea L. Longstreet

Andrea is appreciative of the people that she has worked with and has come to know over the years, and shares that they will be in her heart and memory always. Andrea's proudest accomplishments include her multiple promotions and obtaining her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Case Western Reserve University. Andrea also has volunteer experience with the Board of Trustees for the Long Term Care Ombudsman.

## **Rico Mixon**

Rico appreciates that the university often feels like a family. When working with the University Movers, he prides himself on creating a great rapport. In his free time, Rico also volunteers with the On Target youth program.

## Vicki Moore-Holzhauer

Vicki has made good friends at Case Western Reserve University. Courtesy of the late Dr. Alexander Lamis, Vicki had the opportunity to invite a French television journalist and their crew to her home to watch the Clinton/Obama debate alongside her family and friends. Vicki was later interviewed about the gathering for an article later published in *the daily*. Vicki has also felt privileged to be part of the University Health and Counseling Services Staff, where she worked to help students, faculty, and staff stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her proudest accomplishment includes earning both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the university while working full time. Vicki was elected to the Staff Advisory Council for two terms during her tenure, and she served as a Girl Scout assistant troop leader for a few years in the 1980's.

## **Chester Ramey**

It's been Chester's honor to work with a large number of talented, enthusiastic people. An accomplishment that stands out the most was building the current university network into the essential tool it is today. Chester has been fortunate to serve on a number of boards during his tenure, including seven years on the Board of Trustees of the Northern Ohio Hemophilia Foundation, a term on the West Geauga Board of Education and various terms on the board of his local church. Chester is also a Free Software developer and is responsible for one of the most widely used Free Software programs in the world.

## Lori Waugh

Every department that Lori has served over the past thirty-five years has been enjoyable. Lori has met a lot of great people and has had good experiences along the way. Her proudest accomplishments include the times when she received unsolicited commendation and praise for her quality of work and organizational abilities.

# **25 YEAR HONOREES**

#### **Betsy Banks**

It has been a joy for Betsy to work with fantastic students over the years as she has provided experiences that encourage them to grow and explore their place in the world. The work at the Center for Civic Engagement and Learning (CCEL) is a great combination of campus and community from which Betsy has learned so much! Some of her favorite memories include: working with the great CCEL team and partnering with organizations to create a variety of new civic engagement programs, building student voter engagement, teaching a Seminar Approach to General Education and Scholarship course that explores the university's watershed through writing and photography, creating an alternative spring break trip with the National Park Service on Cumberland Island and collaborating with colleagues on a variety of initiatives to improve student life. Betsy has served on numerous university committees over the years including her current services as a Diversity 360 Facilitator and a member of the Ohio Campus Compact Advisory Council. She also volunteers as a bird bander and monitor for the University Farm's Bluebird Trail each week throughout the breeding season and serves on the steering committee of the Cuyahoga Valley Photo Society.

## **Douglas Bazdar**

Douglas's favorite memory is meeting a kind Chinese researcher while working in the Wood Building. He would always greet my lab partner with a, "Hey, young man!" and Douglas would greet him back. His proudest accomplishment was setting up a multicolor flow cytometry in the laboratory. In his free time, Douglas is proud to volunteer with Birthright, St. Gabriel Church, and St. Mary Magdalene Church.

## **Monica Bradley**

Monica's favorite memory was when Case Western Reserve University hosted the Get Out and Vote campaign in 2004, where she got to see P.

Diddy, Mary J. Blige, and Leonardo DiCaprio on the Kelvin Smith Library lawn for the event. The event showed students the importance of registering to vote and that their vote can make a difference. For 25 years, Monica has been a part of the research community in various positions. Being in Research Administration, Monica has seen some of this university's most promising research projects and clinical trials. It makes her proud when faculty make a promising discovery that will help mankind. As for volunteer experience, Monica was on the Planning Committee of the annual "Research ShowCASE" event from 2004 to 2018. This was a platform for faculty and students to showcase their research through posters or presentations. Through this event, the community was able to see how powerful Case Western Reserve University is as a research institution. Monica participated in the annual Case for Community Day event from 2002 to 2014.

## **Dawn Brown**

Dawn's favorite memory was receiving the phone call from Vice President of Human Resources, Carolyn Gregory, because she had won six months of free parking in a university-wide raffle! She still gets excited thinking about that phone call. Dawn is proud to continue to work with such wonderful people where she is able to contribute, learn and grow. Dawn is grateful to be at Case Western Reserve University where she has been a member of the Emergency Response Team since 2016. She has volunteered at university events such as commencements, Case for Community Days, COVID-19 vaccination clinics and testing sites, University Farm harvesting and serving as a victim for first responder training exercises. Dawn participates in job related committees and is a part of professional memberships including the National Council of University Research Administrators, Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio, Fleet Feet running and Cleveland Hiking Club. Dawn is also a prior member of the Society of Research Administrators International.

#### **Kevin Chan**

Kevin's favorite memory has been meeting people around the university with different skill sets. Kevin enjoys working together to accomplish common goals, and his proudest accomplishment has been implementing the campus-wide wireless network and voice over IP network in the 2000s.

## **Michelle Corcoran**

Michelle enjoys reconnecting with alumni and hearing where they are now. With that, a favorite memory of Michelle's includes attending a faculty member's retirement party. Getting to see his delight with both former students and his family coming back to celebrate him was a joy. Michelle also appreciates the relationships she has built, as well as the opportunity to connect and advocate for people of all ages and levels within the university. Michelle has also volunteered on various committees over the years.

#### Diane R. Dowd

A fond memory and proud accomplishment that Diane has is when the Medical Scientist Training Program got through the COVID-19 pandemic and was refunded by the National Institutes of Health. Diane has held several positions since coming to the School of Medicine in 1999. She performed research, managed graduate students, worked in MedEd and is currently the Administrative Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program. All of these have one thing in common- the joy of working with graduate and medical students. Diane felt proud to be appointed as the Administrative Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program. This program brought together two areas of her experience: graduate and medical education. Within several months of joining the program, the COVID-19 Pandemic hit. Diane provided stability to get the program through that difficult time as there were subsequent leadership changes and the awarding of a multimillion-dollar training grant from the National Institutes of Health. Diane helps where she sees a need, whether it is helping with activities such as the School of Medicine white coat ceremony for medical students or graduate students, with Research Showcase or with graduation. Diane volunteers when she can. Diane also educates those in her community on backyard composting and recycling.

# Janice A. Eatman Williams

Janice has served the campus and community locally, nationally and internationally. When engaging the time and gifts of students, youth, residents and helpful organizations, she enjoys collaboration to achieve success on critical issues. Janice has achieved several distinctions during her tenure including graduating with distinction, receiving the President's Award for Distinguished Service, the Newton D. Baker Alumni Award for Service and induction into the Mandel School Hall of Fame. Janice chartered and relaunched the Campus Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in addition to serving on the Staff Advisory Council Community Service Committee for two decades. She is an original and current member of the Leadership Council of the Social Justice Institute, Co-Chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Council, Advisor for the Black Greek Council, Advisor for the Campus Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, long-time volunteer and partner with East Cleveland Public Library, member for the Project 400 Social Justice Leadership Council with the CSU Diversity Institute and an active Life Member and former Graduate Chapter Officer of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is an active member of the African American Alumni Association (Quad A) of Case Western Reserve University and serves on the Communications Committee. She is an active member of several associations and groups, including the Northwestern Alumni Club of Cleveland and the Northwestern University Black Alumni Association, Hawken School, GirlTrek Cleveland and the Cleveland Public Library.

## **David Elliott**

While working in Campus Services, David's favorite memory was supporting the 2004 Vice Presidential Debate. He found it fascinating to watch the university, political campaigns, and the news media come together for such an event. David has assisted with the growth and expansion of the university and is proud to have been affiliated with the university for nearly thirty years as a student and staff member. David has completed his Master of Business Administration while serving in his staff role. In his free time, David has worked with the Lake County Board of Elections in different roles on Election Days for over ten years and aids the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland.

#### Homer J. Farr

Homer's favorite memory has been working on the productions of *The Water Engine*, *The Illusion* and *Electra*. His proudest accomplishments have been coordinating the Theater Departments property assets during the move from Eldred Theater to the Maltz Performing Arts Center, and overseeing the load out and load in. Homer also donates to the Back to School drive to collect schoolroom products.

#### **Shelly Feiwell**

Shelly's favorite memory from her tenure is the excitement she felt on the first day she was able to teach in the new Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary program dental simulation laboratory in Samson Pavilion using the new technology available to facilitate learning. To this day, Shelly loves it! Her proudest accomplishment was teaching the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary program students how to fill teeth in a 100% online format using Zoom in 2020. They all passed the program and board examination!

## **Renee Holland-Golphin**

Renee's favorite memory is when her children were a part of the Case Western Reserve University community in the summers. Renee currently serves on the Staff Advisory Council and her election to the committee is one of her proudest accomplishments to date!

#### Jean A. Janesz

Jean's favorite memory from her tenure includes the amazing team building that occurs every three years during the process to successfully achieve the accreditation depicting being an Institution of Excellence through the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. Her proudest accomplishment is being an integral part of maintaining an institution of excellence in medical research, advancing therapies, and treatments to better human medicine.

## Kathryn Kwiatkowski

Kathryn's favorite memory was when she invited Dr. Robert Ballard to celebrate his authentic educational program, The JASON Project. Her proudest accomplishments have been engaging primarily with middle school and high school students in hands-on science programs.

# Lisa Long

Although not well traveled herself, Lisa's favorite memories mostly stem from the joy of working with people from all over the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America). Lisa has learned so many things from such interactions, and she considers herself lucky to have had these experiences. Under the direction of her mentor, Dr. Mahmoud Ghannoum, Lisa has worked her way up from a Laboratory Technician 2 to an Operations Manager. She is proud of her contributions to Dr. Ghannoum's laboratory, a laboratory that has consistently performed cutting edge research resulting in 25 years of funding and counting. Lisa has participated in 5K runs to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project, migraine research, and the Metroparks.

## **Ivory Martin**

lvory feels lucky to work around such friendly and respectful students. She sends encouragement to students as she has kept their residence halls clean. In fact, many students would participate in cleaning as well. It is like a family! Ivory has worked all over the campus- from the quad to the residence halls. Now, she is assigned to the Maltz Performing Arts Center. Knowing that she has completed her job with good reviews is an accomplishment for Ivory. The students are well pleased, she is assured that she is a great person and completes her tasks to the best of her abilities. Not to mention, Ivory is proud of her great attendance! She is currently in an outreach ministry with her church and works with people and kids. She also helps those in need at women's shelters.

# **Cynthia Moore**

Cynthia has valued the support of devoted faculty and staff in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences over the years. Over the 25 years, Cynthia has learned different aspects of each position from the administrative teams.

## **Debora Poruban**

Debora's favorite memory was attending a Case Western Reserve University sponsored Cleveland Orchestra concert. Her proudest accomplishment was when she was promoted to Research Associate. Her volunteer work is in her hometown and school district outside of the Cleveland area. She is very active with her church and school music programs.

#### Scott Reba

Scott enjoys seeing graduate students grow and become excellent scientists. He is able to look back and see how much he has learned and how much he has been able to use what he has learned to help others. Recently, Scott has started volunteering with his son at Habitat for Humanity and looks forward to continuing this together.

## **David Reilley**

David has made several friends over the years who have extended beyond the workplace. With landscape design, David has recommended memorial trees and general landscape which is meaningful work that lives on. David sings in a folk rock band which is so fun and it is nice to help out others, as the group raises money, has benefits to raise awareness for autism, and performs at nursing homes.

#### **Dennis Rupert**

Dennis is fond of the collection of wonderful memories of the work and camaraderie with countless staff, students and faculty through the years. His proudest accomplishment has been the creation of his role and team, which serves the offices reporting to the Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs. Before his arrival, all of these departments worked independently. His team strives to disseminate accurate information in a concise and timely manner, leverage systems and processes which promote efficiency and effectiveness, and work collaboratively with others to create positive outcomes and identify areas of need and improvement. Dennis is the Advisor to the Student Executive Council Allocations Committee, Co-Advisor for the Case Western Reserve University Emergency Medical Service, Lead for CASE for Community Day and is involved with the National Youth Sports Program.

# Ella Shurr

Ella really enjoyed when O.K. GO performed at the university during the Tinkham Veale University Center's grand opening in August of 2014. They were a lot of fun and "nerds like us". Ella has participated annually in Case for Community Day from 2002 to 2016, volunteered for a variety of different projects from groundskeeping and mural painting, to adapting toys for children with disabilities. She currently serves on several library committees including the gaming committee which is dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming, and fun space to engage students, faculty, and staff and to foster friendship with the Case Western Reserve University community.

# **Rochelle Stephens**

Rochelle has been privy to some historical events over the past 25 years, and an example of this was when the Vice Presidential debate was held at Case Western Reserve University between Dick Cheney and John Edwards. It was amazing to see all the secret service personnel everywhere, including on the roof. Rochelle's proudest accomplishment has been completing 25 years of service at the university, as well as receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in December 2023. It had taken her eight years to complete it. Her volunteer experience consists of working with a non-profit organization, Dear Daughter. Founded in 2019 and based on the book authored by her daughter, Bianca Brooks, the goal of the organization is to help at-risk girls between the ages of 11-18, and to motivate and inspire them to become their best selves. (It

is important to recognize that their power relies within.) This has been done through workshops, teaching life skills, financial literacy and career preparation. Along with this, there are various role models to speak to them, including Rochelle. Dear Daughter's mission is to impact the lives of girls- one at a time.

#### **Katie Wervey**

When Katie thinks about her time at Case Western Reserve University, she thinks of the people and relationships she has built over the years. It is the sense of community that makes Katie enjoy coming to work every day. Advancing steadily through different positions and being a reliable source of help to faculty, students, and staff is a great memory for Katie. She prides herself on being willing to help anywhere she can best be of service. She really enjoys participating in Community Service Days that the university organizes. Coming together as a community to help others is a great way to contribute to the bigger picture. Katie has also volunteered at Hospice of the Western Reserve. Helping people at some of the most difficult times in their lives was a humbling but very rewarding experience. Katie is grateful that she could be of service, in some small way, to those who were grieving or in need of support.

# **10 YEAR HONOREES**

## **Autumn Beechler Stebing**

Autumn would like to highlight the extraordinary collaboration shown in March of 2020 when the university, via her office, had to recall one hundred students from their semester abroad due to the global pandemic. Colleagues across campus and around the world worked tirelessly to see all students safely returned and on track for graduation. Proud accomplishments for Autumn include doubling the percentage of students that study abroad to be more than 3x the national average, collaborating with faculty to build study abroad programs that are embedded into the curriculum, diversifying the study abroad population and providing greater access to scholarship funding for students. Her volunteer experience includes mentoring across campus in the Emerging Leaders Program, First CWRU, Title IX, Refugee Response and Providence House. Therapy Dogs have also filled her time and personal bucket.

## **Chuck Black**

Chuck's first day at Weatherhead School of Management was the type of first day everyone hopes to have. He reported to a staff retreat where his new team members were conducting an Appreciative Inquiry Summit to define the strategic plan for the coming year. Imagine witnessing everyone articulating and magnifying the strengths of a system then dreaming and discovering the strengths-based goals the team would accomplish next. This involved seeing the impact on individuals and organizations, particularly in Executive Education. The Weatherhead School of Management leads the world when it comes to life-changing expertise and program content. As they like to say at Weatherhead Executive Education, "what you learn in a day can change everything." Chuck is a member of the National Association of Corporate Relations Officers.

## **Robert Deissler**

Robert's favorite memory during his tenure at Case Western Reserve University was traveling to Washington, D.C. and receiving, along with his co-inventors, a 2016 Patents for Humanities Award at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for creating a low-cost, accurate malaria detection device using magnets and lasers that allow better diagnosis and treatment. Along with his colleagues, Robert developed a low-cost magneto-optical device for the detection of malaria in blood. In addition to receiving a Patents for Humanities Award, this device has been developed into a commercial product by Hemex Health.

# Julie DeJager

Even more than 10 years later, Julie cherishes all of the ways she was so warmly welcomed into the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. Though they did not yet know her, coworkers offered their support, rides, recommendations, mentorship, burritos and cookies when she was new to Cleveland, Ohio. Julie is at the university today because of that generous hospitality. The Case Comprehensive Cancer Center has had some exciting successes and she has had her own surprising promotions in the past ten years. What Julie is most proud of is when her colleagues tell her she is helping to make the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center a great place to work, a community and not just a workplace. Outside of work, Julie is busy with three kids and their activities. Her family lives right here in University Circle and loves being involved with the Natural History Museum, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the Cleveland Orchestra and St. Paul's Episcopal Church community.

# **Dyatra Fletcher**

Dyatra's favorite memory is seeing students come in as freshman and graduate. Working at graduation and establishing relationships are highlights for Dyatra. She went from a temporary employee in Custodial Services to a Coordinator and is proud to have worked her way up.

## **Greg Harris**

As there are many memories to choose from, Greg's favorite memory is from September 2023, when he was present for the Mobile Food Pantry in collaboration with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on the Kelvin Smith Library Oval. Greg is the proudest of everything that his various offices and teams have accomplished together. Greg has pride in being able to work with his colleagues and amazing university partners! Some current professional affiliations include Ohio College Personnel Association, Higher Education Case Managers Association and National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment. Greg has recently volunteered with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, Goods Bank NEO, and the Physical Resource Center.

## **Mette Johansen**

Mette has been fortunate to have many wonderful colleagues at Case Western Reserve University. She has developed molecular imaging agents for cancer detection and has completed a Master of Science in Biostatistics, Genomics and Bioinformatics in 2019. Mette has enjoyed judging various science fairs in the Cleveland area as well.

# **Alec Jokubaitis**

Alec's most cherished memories are of his time working with all of the wonderful staff who were part of the Center for International Affairs over the years, and his new, wonderful colleagues in Enrollment Management. A few of Alec's proudest accomplishments are leading implementations of new systems for international student data and international agreements, welcoming and supporting new groups of exchange students, and generally all the ways he has helped others. During his time at the university, Alec has been very pleased to volunteer time towards the initiatives of other offices on campus, such as serving as a marshal for undergraduate commencement and serving on hearing panels for the Office of Student Conduct. Alec has also taken photos and shot videos of many university events, including headshots for many offices' staff teams, professional headshots for an anti-violence poster campaign through the Office of Title IX.

## Gina Kola

One of Gina's favorite memories has been her team's laboratory social gatherings for different festivities. Professionally, Gina has appreciated helping with successful grant applications, committing herself to challenges and following through with her ideas throughout projects and of course publishing scientific results, even as first author on some of them!

#### Seong-Ki Lee

Seong's favorite memory and proudest accomplishment at Case Western Reserve University was the moment that his big paper was accepted in 2022.

#### Sylvia Marrero

Several years ago, Sylvia had a student pursuing a pre-med path but was not enjoying the program. Sylvia coached her in envisioning alternative career possibilities. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree and a Master of Public Health and then landed a position at a healthcare consulting firm. When she graduated, she told Sylvia, "I could not have made it to this point without your guidance." The alumna shared with Sylvia what a huge impact this exercise and her mentorship had on her. This alumna is now working in a pharmaceutical company out west. Sylvia still thinks about this alumna and how she decided to pivot and embrace new possibilities in her life and how it led to a more fulfilling academic and professional pathway for her. Sylvia completed the Women Staff Leadership Development Institute program in 2021 and earned a Leadership & Management Certificate from Weatherhead Executive Education as part of this year-long program. Sylvia is also proud of the impact she makes on students' lives in her role. For example, one of her students recently asked her to write her a letter of recommendation for a scholarship opportunity and she stated, "My time at Case Western Reserve University truly would not be the same without you and all of the guidance and support you have given me. Your kind words were extremely encouraging and motivating, and continue to inspire me to strive for excellence. I am genuinely so grateful to have mentors like you who always push me to become the best version of myself, give me an extra vote of confidence, and always believe in me." Sylvia has been a Diversity 360 Facilitator since the inception of the program in 2015. This program has been one of the most thought-provoking, challenging yet engaging training programs she has ever been a part of and Sylvia continues to be part of these efforts to increase Diversity, Equity and Inclusion awareness across the university community.

#### Suzi Mason

Suzi's favorite memory has been attending faculty/staff happy hour and getting to know her colleagues. Suzi's proudest accomplishment has been fostering an inclusive and comfortable environment with her coworkers and visitors. She is involved with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine events, PetFix, City Dogs and the American Heart Association.

#### **Cordaro Nevels**

For Cordaro, it is hard to simply pick one memory. Students at Case Western Reserve University have given Cordaro special gifts for his service and thank you cards over the years which has meant a lot to him.

#### Soumya Panigrahi

Soumya's favorite memory has been the extremely sincere and supportive nature of the university during the COVID-19 pandemic. His proudest accomplishments have been his research, publication, and personal academic progress. Soumya volunteers with the American Cancer Society and supported the Summer Healthcare Experience in Oncology in 2023.

## **Jim Petras**

Jim is grateful to work in such a beautiful neighborhood. His proudest accomplishment is launching five online graduate programs for the Case School of Engineering. Additionally, he has served as an advisor to Phi Gamma Delta, an undergraduate fraternity, for nearly ten years and participated in a number of Case for Community Days during his tenure. Last summer, Jim led the collection of clothing and other items across campus for people who lost everything in an East Cleveland apartment fire.

## **Michelle Riske-Morris**

Michelle's favorite memory was the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education anniversary party. Being a part of the celebration and commemorating all of the good that the team had accomplished over the last twenty years was noteworthy. Michelle's proudest accomplishment has been working her way up to Senior Research Associate and becoming a Principal Investigator where she oversees her own evaluation projects.

## **Kimberly Rossi**

Kimberly's favorite memory was the first day she walked on to campus, bright-eyed and excited for her first professional job. She had just graduated the week prior with her Bachelor's degree and felt this was everything she had been working toward. Kimberly's proudest accomplishment has been the opportunity to work in so many different capacities across campus and grow as a professional and as a person. She was able to spend time learning in the Department of Human Resources, spread her wings in the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and come into her own as a leader in the School of Medicine.

# **Steve Scheidt**

Early in Steve's first year at Weatherhead School of Management, some students, faculty and staff got together for a pick-up game of softball and invited him. It established camaraderie and gave him a glimpse into the culture of community at the university. Steve is especially proud to have served on teams over the past decade that have enrolled and shaped graduate cohorts at Weatherhead School of Management. Steve is proud of the role he plays in helping professionals in their life journey. Since 2020, he has served on a volunteer board for the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. In 2024, he was appointed as board president. The Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities supports and empowers people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in the community.

## Jonah J. Scott-McKean

One of Jonah's favorite memories at Case Western Reserve University is having lunch with friends in the quad on a sunny day. Sitting on the

grass, chatting and enjoying each other's company made for a perfect break from the laboratory. It's those simple moments of connection that he remembers most fondly about his time on campus. One of the aspects of the last ten years that he deeply cherishes and feels proud of is the meaningful connections he has formed with others. Whether it's colleagues, friends, mentors or acquaintances, the relationships he has cultivated have enriched his life in countless ways. From sharing experiences and insights to offering support and encouragement, these connections have been a source of strength and inspiration. Jonah is grateful for the diverse network of individuals who have come into his life, each contributing their unique perspectives and experiences.

## **Novella Shelton**

Novella leaves regular, weekly notes of encouragement for students. One week she had forgotten to do so, but she didn't think it would be missed. The following week, she came in to clean and the students had left notes for her inquiring if she was okay because they didn't receive anything the previous week. Since then, she never missed another day. Novella enjoys connecting with her students and having a listening ear and smile to make their time at the university a home away from home. Novella also provides food and personal hygiene items to individuals who are homeless in the downtown area twice a year.

# **Richard Sigg**

Richard is so thankful to work with amazing colleagues that bring joy to him each day. He works with a dedicated and passionate team committed to supporting prospective students and each other. To see the passion and drive that students bring is energizing and provides him hope for the future! Richard's proudest accomplishment was being a part of a university-wide team that implemented the graduate instance of Slate. This project brought together multiple schools at the university and has fostered greater collaboration among admission and recruitment offices across campus. In his free time, Richard enjoys getting involved and volunteering with his kids' school and their activities.

# Katie Skapin

Katie hosted a retirement party for Blackboard as the university transitioned to Canvas. She is most proud of successfully transitioning to Canvas from Blackboard, continuing to grow her personal knowledge of our academic technologies, and improving workflows for management of Echo360. In her free time, Katie volunteers with the Campus Emergency Response Team.

# Yohonna Smith

Yohonna has great memories of her annual office holiday party. The head of the department is so thoughtful in honoring each team member and creating a fun atmosphere for connection. Yohonna started in the University Registrar's Office just as they were beginning to implement the Student Information System. She is proud to have been a small part of that giant endeavor. Yohonna also upgraded the University Registrar's website to Terminal4, and most recently to Drupal, and has had the privilege to maintain and make it more accessible since. Yohonna is also a proud member of the Higher Education Web Professionals Association.

# Paula Sumner

Paula's favorite memory has been watching undergraduate students walk across the stage at commencement. Her proudest accomplishment has been helping plan commencement for over 10,000 graduates.

# **Rich Tomazin**

In the most recent past, Rich's son graduated from Case Western Reserve University as the third generation of Tomazin alumni, which was quite rewarding. Rich has had the opportunity to work with some of the brightest and humblest individuals and this has made his staff experience very worthwhile. Everyday poses new challenges which he is always hopeful to embrace with finding a solution. He is an active participant in an Akron-area group called the Society of Akron Area Zymurgy where the group studies how the fermentation process works for beer – Richard loves the art of making and sharing!

#### **Beth Trecasa**

Beth's favorite memory was when she met her first supervisor in the School of Medicine, Maggie Kaminski. Maggie became not only Beth's work best friend, but one of her best friends. Now, they live a few minutes a part from one another and both direct academic centers across the guad from one another. Beth's proudest accomplishments include the programs she has helped bring from an idea into full implementation, such as the Cleveland Humanities Collaborative, the Military Ethics master's degree program and the Reproductive Justice day of learning. Beth has represented the university across the country and abroad. Beth values volunteering for social justice efforts. For example, she sewed nearly one thousand face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic and donated them all for free. As part of this effort, Beth created a sewing station in the Inamori Center for students to create masks. Since then, Beth has utilized her sewing skills to benefit others- she has recently joined a local organization called Sew for Service.

## **Brandon Williams**

Brandon enjoys commencement and the engagement with students and parents every year. He previously worked with Bon Appetit Management Company where he would look forward to catering and cooking. Brandon also looks forward to being a part of the Case Western Reserve University community as long as he can - as he has gained a family.

#### **Rayshaun A. Williams**

Rayshaun's proudest accomplishment is to have worked at the university for 10 years and to have reached this career milestone!

## Martin G. Wright

Martin appreciates our graduation and seeing our students' success. His proudest accomplishment was being a part of the Presidential Debates and setting up security at the Samson Pavilion. His volunteer work is with his church and St Herman's.

#### **Yiqing Zhao**

There is a friendly and mutually beneficial environment at Case Western Reserve University where her surroundings are filled with knowledge, and Yiqing can discuss problems with different professionals. She has participated in many professional conferences, trained many students, and has published professional articles.

## Craig M. Zullig

Craig enjoys the fun lunches with co-workers from different departments. He started as a secretary in 1993 and advanced, in part, by earning a graduate degree in the evening. Craig also supports staff with his involvement in the Engagement Committee. The Staff Service Awards Ceremony is an official, annual university event to honor the staff members whose long-standing contributions have actively helped to advance the university's mission for one or more decades, and in many cases, more than three decades.

While this program occurs once a year, every day provides an opportunity to express to one another an appreciation for the talented and dedicated staff members who help make Case Western Reserve University a truly great place to work.

On behalf of the

Department of Human Resources, we express our deepest gratitude for your many years of dedicated and selfless service, and wish you continued success and happiness throughout your career with the university.