

# ADVANCE: WISE@OU

## NEWSLETTER

WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AT OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
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APRIL 2016

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DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

MARIA BRYANT

We congratulate Dr. Bryant on her recent promotion to Distinguished Professor. She joined OU in 1991 and became a full professor of Chemistry in 1999. Dr. Bryant has published 138 journal articles that have been cited 4,700 times. She has received more than \$2.3 million in research grants, and developed one of the first computational chemistry courses in the nation for lower level students.

## Upcoming Events

### NSF CAREER Webinar – Viewing on Friday, April 8

The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is the National Science Foundation's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty. WISE@OU and the Center for Biomedical Research are hosting a **live webinar** about CAREER awards on **Friday, April 8, from 2-4:30 p.m. in 123 Hannah Hall**. This webinar would be particularly useful for math, science, and engineering Assistant Professors. However, NSF also funds the social sciences and other fields, so we welcome anyone interested in learning more about the CAREER award to attend. In addition, graduate students, post docs, and others who be might applying for a CAREER award in the future are invited.

If you cannot attend the live broadcast of the webinar, we **will have recorded access to it until July 15**, and during that time you can watch it at your leisure.

**E-mail Leanne DeVreugd ([ldevreug@oakland.edu](mailto:ldevreug@oakland.edu)) if you are interested in joining our live viewing or would like access to the recording of the webinar.**

### Work-Life Balance: Managing Your Service Commitments – April 7

This panel will discuss the importance of service, how to know when to say “yes” or “no” to commitments, and chair leadership in the equitable distribution of service responsibilities. Panelists will include Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich, Brian Sangeorzan (Mechanical Engineering), and Julie Walters (Political Science, WISE@OU) with Laila Guessous (Mechanical Engineering, WISE@OU) moderating the panel. This event is hosted by WISE@OU and CETL, and lunch will be provided. **The panel will be from noon until 1:30 p.m. in 200A Elliott Hall.** Register on the [CETL website](#).

## Recent WISE@OU Events

**Models for Faculty Mentoring** – WISE@OU partnered with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) for the Models for Faculty Mentoring workshop on January 28, 2016. In this workshop, we presented a framework for mentoring models and discussed types of mentoring across campus, at the school and department level, and for individuals. Panelists included Kathleen Moore, Laila Guessous, and Dorothy Nelson. A video and resources packet are posted on our [OU Resources](#) page.

**ORA Broader Impacts Workshop** – Kathleen Moore and Brad Roth joined Michael MacDonald (SEHS) and Marianne Donoghue (SECS) to discuss the what, why, and how of Broader Impacts for grant applications. This workshop provided examples of successfully funded proposals and shared outreach and collaboration opportunities that are available on-campus and with the nearby community. Handouts are posted on our [OU Resources](#) page.

## Outstanding Teaching—Laila Guessous

**Laila Guessous**, WISE@OU Leadership Team member and Mechanical Engineering Professor, was recently awarded the 2016 ASEE North Central Section Outstanding Teaching Award. This award is a great honor from the American Society for Engineering Education, recognizing her dedication and passion for engineering education. Dr. Guessous received her award at the ASEE NSC Conference in March.



## STLE Fellow —Beth Zou



**Beth Zou** was elevated to the grade of Fellow of the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE). This nomination is a special honor from Dr. Zou's peers in the Society. She is the Interim Associate Dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science and a Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

## Recent Grants for STEM Faculty


WISE@OU is pleased to highlight recent grants, focusing specifically on the research of recently hired faculty.



**Sergey Golovashchenko** (Mechanical Engineering) — Early in 2016, Dr. Golovashchenko received a \$110,000 grant from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) supporting the research and educational activity of the Chrysler Learning and Innovation Center. He also received \$80,000 in funding from the Ford Motor Company to support his work in testing advanced materials for the trimming of Ultra High Strength Steels.


**Randal Westrick** (Biological Sciences) — Dr. Westrick received the Coagulation Research Grant, a \$10,000 award from Anicara Diagnostica. His project is titled “Thrombosuppressive mechanisms of an ARP2 mutant discovered through a mouse ENU mutagenesis screen.” Dr. Westrick's research addresses the life-threatening situation of blood clot formation. Although this condition is hereditary, little is known about the genes and molecules involved. There is a recently identified mutation in a gene called *Actr2* that plays a major role in blood clotting. However, it is still unknown how it affects the blood clotting process. The grant generously provided by Anicara Diagnostica will be used to perform detailed molecular and biochemical studies to identify how *Actr2* affects the blood clotting process.

ANIARA DIAGNOSTICA



Anicara supports research for Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.  
Now available - \$10,000 grant for qualified projects.  
Visit [anicara.com](http://anicara.com) to apply.

COAGULATION RESEARCH GRANT



We are proud to announce the winner of our 2015 Coagulation Research Grant - Dr. Randal Westrick of Oakland University.

He now has **\$10,000** to use towards his project, called “Thrombosuppressive mechanisms of an ARP2 mutant discovered through a mouse ENU mutagenesis screen.” Congrats Randal!

## Michigan Space Grant Consortium Seed Grant Winners

Wenjin Zhou, Sanela Martic, and Richard Olawoyin each received a \$5,000 research seed grant from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium (MSGC).

**Dr. Zhou**, from Computer Science and Engineering, is researching lung cancer risk in astronauts. Her research could significantly improve current drug design practice and make possible a new cost-effective method for computational drug discovery.

**Dr. Martic**, from Chemistry, is leading a project that is trying to answer “When Mars is reached, will astronaut’s vision be compromised dramatically and irreversibly influence their experience?” Her identification of the mechanism of aggregation of lens proteins and peptides will contribute to our understanding of the environmental triggers of eye lens damage and its prevention.

**Dr. Olawoyin**, from the School of Health Sciences, is researching packaging for food supplies that are sent to space. His current study will investigate the effects of silver nanoparticles (AgNPs)-coated packaging on astronaut’s food supplies, which is expected to increase and enhance the nutrient value, shelf life, flavor quality, and variety of foods available to astronauts.

Laila Guessous is the campus liaison for the Michigan Space Grant Consortium. Contact her at [guessous@oakland.edu](mailto:guessous@oakland.edu) if you are interested in learning more about the MSGC.

## Michigan ACE Women’s Network Conference



This year’s MI-ACE Women’s Network conference is June 6-7, 2016 at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

The theme is “Make a Difference: Move the Needle in Michigan.” This network develops the leadership of women in higher education throughout the state. **We encourage you to attend – panels this year will focus both on university staff and faculty.**

Registration will open April 1, check the website [www.miacenetwork.org](http://www.miacenetwork.org) for details. More information will be forthcoming.

### SAVE THE DATE

## Oakland University Women’s Leadership Institute

Nov. 4, 2016

A new initiative, the **Oakland University Women’s Leadership Institute**, will host a conference at OU on November 4, 2016. This institute will provide evidence-based knowledge and practices for women who want to grow their professional lives through discussion, collaboration, and problem-solving.

Contact Elizabeth Talbert ([talbert@oakland.edu](mailto:talbert@oakland.edu)) for more information.